

*Dances and Songs of Change* (1989)

Armand Russell

Written in 1989 for the Verdehr Trio, *Dances and Songs of Change* consists of a large central movement called *Dances and Songs* surrounded by brief outer movements, *Prologue* and *Epilogue*. The central movement contrasts six active, energetic dances with the relatively slower, lyric, and restrained songs which intervene. A small set of contrasting motives first appear in the *Prologue* and then recur throughout the work so as to give the impression of a set of free variations in which moods shift dramatically as the motives undergo changes in the varied dances and songs.

The world premiere of *Dances and Songs of Change* was on March 8, 1990 at the Honolulu Academy of Arts Theatre, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Armand Russell (born 1932, Seattle, Washington) completed the Bachelor of Arts and the Master of Arts degrees in music composition at the University of Washington where he studied with John Verrall and George McKay. He earned the doctorate in composition at the Eastman School of Music, studying with Bernard Rogers and Howard Hanson. As a virtuoso bass player, he played double bass in the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic and Civic Orchestras, the Boston Pops Tour Orchestra, and the Honolulu Symphony. During the summers, he was a Visiting Professor at the Eastman School of Music.

Russell joined the University of Hawaii music faculty in 1961 as Professor of Music Theory and Composition, and he later served as Chairman of the Music Department for seven years. Under his leadership, the department earned national accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music and the graduate program was expanded. He retired in 1994 as Professor Emeritus. He now lives in Santa Rosa, California.

Russell was a prolific composer whose output included many works for double bass and percussion in solo, chamber, and concerto formats. Some of his frequently performed published works include the *Pas de deux* for clarinet and percussion, *Sonata for Percussion and Piano*, *Suite Concertante* for tuba and woodwind quintet, *Theme and Fantasia* for band, *Chaconne* for double bass and piano, *Buffo Set* for double bass and piano, *Harlequin Concerto* for double bass and orchestra (or piano), and several works for chorus. Russell also co-authored with Allen Trubitt, a series of theory textbooks, *The Shaping of Musical Elements*, published by Macmillan.