

Dance Suite No. 3 (1995)

Gerald M. Shapiro

“Dance suites are fun to write. I try to make pieces that have a single pulse throughout. This third suite was written as an appreciation of some of the current popular forms, so most of the pieces are syncopated and ‘swinging’ as well. I imagine that this is music one would like to dance to.

It was interesting to find how much the vocabulary of dance music is synonymous with the concert hall vocabulary of more serious or academic music. James Brown and Karlheinz Stockhausen share more than a few harmonic and structural procedures, yet I felt very at home in this seemingly schizophrenic musical space which is, after all, the ordinary everyday space of the greater musical culture we all share. Anyway, if you think about burrowing deep into the center of that space and then playing around for the sheer pleasure of the performance, and the listening, and the dance, you’ll have a pretty good idea of what these pieces are about.

Dance Suite No. 3 was written expressly for the Verdehr Trio whose tireless devotion to contemporary music inspired it. It is dedicated to my daughter Emily.”

—Gerald M. Shapiro

The world premiere of *Dance Suite No. 3* was on October 19, 1995 at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

Gerald M. Shapiro (born 1942, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) attended public schools in his hometown and received a Bachelor of Music degree with distinction from the Eastman School of Music in 1964. He continued his education with graduate work at Mills College where he received a Master of Arts degree in 1967. Further study was undertaken at the University of California at Davis and the Conservatoire Nationale and École Normale Supérieure de Musique in Paris, France, where he studied under a Fulbright grant. His principal composition teachers were Darius Milhaud, Mort Subotnick, Karlheinz Stockhausen, and Nadia Boulanger.

Shapiro has received numerous commissions as well as fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers. His works include *Phoenix* and *Prayer for the Great Family* written for the British vocal ensemble Electric Phoenix; *Mount Hope in Autumn* and *In Time’s Shadow* commissioned and premiered by the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra and Toledo Symphony Orchestra respectively; *Sextet* for keyboards and percussion; *Piano Trio No. 1* commissioned by NEA for the Yuval Trio of Israel; and *String Quartet No. 2* which was premiered by the Mondriaan String Quartet of The Netherlands. Performances of these and many other works have been included in programs at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago; the New York Summer Festival at Lincoln Center; the Grand Teton Festival in Wyoming; the Montanea Festival in Leukerbad, Switzerland; the Adolph Sax and Saxophones en Fete festivals in Paris, France; the De Stem Festival in Amsterdam, Holland; and the Monday Evening Concerts at the Los Angeles County Museum. In addition to professional performances, Shapiro’s music is often programmed by university and conservatory ensembles. His music is published by Editions Billaudot in Paris and is recorded on the Naxos and Neuma Record labels.

In 1967, Shapiro accepted a position at Brown University where he served as professor and director of the MacColl Studio for Electronic Music. He retired from teaching in July, 2014, but remains active as a composer.

Additional information is available at www.geraldshapiro.com.