

*Double Concerto for Violin and Clarinet (1998)*

William Wallace

“An accessible work melodically and harmonically, the double concerto is nevertheless in its outer movements extremely lively, making much use of exciting irregular meters such as 5/8 and 5/4. The theme with which the first movement opens provides much of the material we hear in the concerto as a whole: all three movements are heard as closely related. The overall design is traditional, the outer movements framing a central movement that is extremely slow and lyrical. The second and third movements (the third especially) exhibit elaborate cadenzas. As in the earlier triple concerto of 1994 (violin, clarinet and piano) also commissioned by the Verdehrs, woodwinds are omitted. Toward the end of the third movement, the theme which opens the first returns, creating a satisfying and rounded effect. The work is dedicated to Walter and Elsa Verdehr.”

—William Wallace

The world premiere of *Double Concerto* was on February 27, 1999 at the Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, Gustav Meier, conductor.

William Wallace (1933–2017) was born in Salt Lake City, Utah and is not to be confused with his earlier Scottish namesake, the composer William Vincent Wallace (1860–1940), nor with the hero of *Braveheart*. This William Wallace was a man of our time, with strong associations with both the United States and Canada. (He held citizenships in both countries.)

Wallace earned a Ph.D. at the University of Utah in 1962 where he studied composition with Leroy Robertson. He also studied with Egon Wellesz and Edmund Rubbra at the University of Oxford. Wallace was on the music faculty of Rutgers University prior to moving to Canada in 1967, when he took up a position at McMaster University to teach music theory and composition, and eventually, music criticism in a master of arts program he helped found. He later taught at the University of Utah.

His music has been performed and broadcast extensively, and recorded commercially by the London Symphony Orchestra, the Warsaw Chamber Orchestra, the Slovak Radio Orchestra (Bratislava) and, with the Verdehrs, by both the Janacek and Martinu Philharmonic Orchestras (Czech Republic). His chamber output includes a *Trio Concertante* and *Sonata a tre*, commissioned by the Verdehr Trio.

In 1989, Wallace retired from full-time teaching to devote major time to composition. He moved to Wilson, Wyoming where he had had a summer home for many years. During his lifetime, he was an avid outdoorsman, passionate conservationist, and enthusiastic supporter of the Grand Teton Music Festival.