

*Triple Concerto* (1994)

William Wallace

“Strings, brasses, timpani, and synthesizer (with woodwinds omitted) comprise the orchestral complement in this work. The synthesizer itself, set to a bright, bell or celesta-like sound, is prominently heard (with thematically important material) at the outset, thereafter to recur, sounding similarly, at strategic points in the concerto.

Formally, the concerto follows the traditional design of two rapid movements enclosing a slow, central one. The first movement is in a ternary design, the central portion of which is largely devoted to a passacaglia (a repeated theme that is set variously). Many challenging changes of meter characterize this movement. The second movement, in contrast, is very slow and extremely lyrical. The third movement is a rapid-fire affair, much of it in the nature of that hot Sicilian dance, the tarantella. Eventually, this material yields to an extended cadenza involving all three soloists. A climatic reappearance of the synthesizer leads on to the end.

The concerto is dedicated to the Verdehr Trio, and is, like its companion piece the *Double Concerto*, a product of the impressive commissioning program carried out by that fine ensemble.”

—William Wallace

The world premiere of the *Triple Concerto* was on March 14, 1995 at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah with the Brigham Young University Orchestra, Clyn Barrus, 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.