

Tripartita (1989)

William Averitt

"*Tripartita* is an invented name for a piece in three movements for three players. The first movement, *Elaborations*, is a sonata-like structure whose ideas evolve from the harmonic succession heard as the background material of the opening passage. The second and third movements are based on essentially the same scalar and harmonic materials as the first; however, they are somewhat different in their moods and expression, in part because they both incorporate elements derived from popular music idioms of the early part of this century.

The form of the second movement, *Dances*, is related to the nineteenth-century scherzo with two trios, first used frequently by Beethoven. Here, the scherzo sections are fast and jazzy, while the more relaxed digressions are, respectively, a ragtime, waltz and a tango. The third movement, *Blues with Variations*, follows without pause, and furthermore is linked structurally to the second movement, since the chord sequences used as the basis for the *Blues* (as well as for the variations that follow) is the same one employed previously for both the waltz and the tango."

—William Averitt

The world premiere of the *Tripartita* was on April 28, 1989 at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

William Averitt (born 1948, Paducah, Kentucky) received the Bachelor of Music degree in Composition with highest honors from Murray State University, and both a Master of Music and Doctor of Music degree from Florida State University. He pursued further study at Yale; the University of Maryland; Tanglewood; the Haydn Performance Seminar in Eisenstadt, Austria; the Wolf-Trap American University; and the Bach Performance Seminars in Stuttgart, Germany. His composition teachers included James Woodard, John Boda and Betsy Jolas.

Averitt is the composer of more than sixty choral and chamber music works which have been performed throughout the United States and in Western Europe, Russia and Asia. He has received several composer fellowships, grants, and commissions from a wide variety of sources such as the National Endowment for the Arts, the Library of Congress, Meet the Composer, the Atlanta Chamber Players, the Virginia Music Teachers Association, the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh, the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, Choral Arts of Seattle, Opus 3 Trio, and Currents (a contemporary music ensemble in Richmond, Virginia). He also wrote a *Triple Concerto for Violin, Clarinet, and Piano with Wind Symphony* for the Verdehr Trio. His music is published by E.C. Schirmer, Treble Clef Press, Falls House Press, Little Piper, ALRY Publications, Fred Bock Music, Concordia, and MMB Publications.

Averitt has received ASCAP Plus Standard Awards since 1991, and in 1992, he won the Roger Wagner Center for Choral Studies Choral Composition Competition. In 2002, he was selected by the Virginia Commission for the Arts as the recipient of an Artist Fellowship resulting in a residency at the Virginia Center for the Arts at Sweet Briar the following year.

An active conductor throughout his career, Averitt founded, and for ten seasons, served as Music Director of Winchester Musica Viva, a community-based professional-level chamber choir. In 1988, he was presented the first annual "Artie" Award for Excellence in Music by the Shenandoah Arts Council as a reflection of his work with this ensemble in the Winchester area. Previously, he founded and directed Consort of Voices. For several seasons, he was conductor for the Front Royal Oratorio Society.

Averitt is Professor Emeritus of Music and formerly Coordinator of Composition at Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia where he was on the faculty from

1973 to 2012. In 2000, he was recognized by the university with the Wilkins Appreciation Award for Faculty Excellence. His chamber music was the subject of two doctoral treatises: *The Music of William Averitt: Selected Chamber Works with Piano* by Yuling Huang and *William Averitt's 'Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. Matthew: An analysis with Conducting Considerations* by Jennifer J. Adam.

Additional information is available at www.williamaveritt.com.