

***Bagatelles* (1990)**

Radek Boschetty

Composed for the Verdehr Trio, *Bagatelles* consists of five short movements:

I. *Sostenute* begins quietly with an ostinato figure in the clarinet followed by a chant-like melody in the violin. Using these materials, the movement rises to a brief climax and then dies away with the violin reiterating its opening melody.

II. *Allegro* is a lively scherzo marked *burlescamente* and is reminiscent of Shostakovich. The opening fast section is interrupted briefly by a chorale and then return, hurdling to a brilliant end.

III. *Andante* sets forth an expressive melody superimposed over a restless sixteenth-note figure. Like the first, this movement rises to a climatic fortissimo after which it quickly fades away.

IV. *Lento* evokes the mood of Debussy's *The Sunken Cathedral*. The movement begins with widely spaced piano chords and crescendos to a forceful middle section before subsiding with the return of the opening piano chords.

V. *Vivace* is a clever rhythmic movement with sudden and unexpected metric changes.

The world premiere of *Bagatelles* was on March 6, 1991 at the Sala de Conciertos, Paseo de Recoletos in Madrid, Spain.

Radek Boschetty (born 1966, Ostrava, Czechoslovakia) studied at the Conservatoire of Music in Ostrava, receiving degrees in composition, music theory, and piano. He continued his studies at the Academy of Music and Arts in Prague. He has composed for orchestra, mixed choir, and numerous chamber ensembles, and he writes: "My main sources of inspiration are Miroslav Klega, a contemporary Czech composer born in 1926 and my main composition teacher; Verlaine; and Moravian folksong."

Since 1988, Boschetty has lived in London. He spent nine years broadcasting in Czech and in English for the BBC World Service. He also voices television documentaries, commercials, cartoon, trails, corporate promotional and educational videos, and film.