

Love Music: Concerto for Violin and Clarinet with Orchestra (1997–2000)

Paul Chihara

“This double concerto was composed during 1997–2000 for my friends, violinist Walter Verdehr and his clarinetist wife Elsa, on commission from Michigan State University. This composition was a labor of love for me, not only because of the two great performers for whom it was written, but primarily because of the lyric and romantic style that this double concerto so enthusiastically explores. The title was suggested to me some years earlier by the Executive Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Ernest Fleishmann, who commissioned me to compose a work for Zuben Mehta which reveled in and examined the romantic style of film music from Korngold to Williams. I wrote for him my second symphony *Birds of Sorrow* based on a Japanese Noh Drama, about love and death. But it was not until I received this commission from Walter and Elsa that I finally felt confident enough in my understanding of film and concert music to compose a piece that lived in both worlds. The second movement, by the way, is based on my song *We Have No Word for Love* from my Broadway musical *Shogun*.”

—Paul Chihara

The world premiere of *Love Music* was on December 6, 2000 at Gewandhaus, Mendelssohn-Saal with Neues Mendelssohn-Kammerorchester, Leipzig, Germany conducted by Evan Christ.

Paul Chihara (born 1938, Seattle, Washington) received a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in English literature from the University of Washington and Cornell University, respectively. He received a Doctor of Musical Arts in 1965 from Cornell, studying with Robert Palmer. He studied composition with renowned pedagogue Nadia Boulanger in Paris, Ernst Pepping in West Berlin, and Gunther Schuller in Tanglewood.

Chihara’s works have been commissioned by the Guggenheim Foundation, Roger Wagner Chorale, Naumberg Foundation, Fromm Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Los Angeles Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta, Cleveland Orchestra, New Japan Philharmonic, New Juilliard Ensemble, Continuum, and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

Chihara has composed scores for more than one hundred motion pictures and television, including work with directors Sidney Lumet, Louis Malle, Arthur Penn, John Turturro, Michael Richie, and Jacque Cousteau. He began his film career scoring *Death Race 2000* (1976) for Roger Corman, which starred a very young Sylvester Stallone in his first Hollywood picture. Among his well-known scores are *Prince of the City*, *The Morning After* (with Jane Fonda), *Crossing Delancey*, *Romance and Cigarettes*, and *Kiki’s Delivery System* (co-composer). His television credits include *China Beach*, *Noble House*, *100 Centre Street*, and *Brave New World*.

Chihara has orchestrated for Gil Shaham, Orpheus, and Live from Lincoln Center. On Broadway, he was musical consultant/arranger for Duke Ellington’s *Sophisticated Ladies* and composer for James Clavell’s *Shogun, the Musical*. Chiara’s music has been recorded on BMG, Reference Recordings, CRI, Music and Art, Vox Candide, New World Records, the Louisville Orchestra First Edition Records, and Albany Records.

Chihara’s awards include the Lili Boulanger Memorial Award (1962), a Fulbright Fellowship, and the Aaron Copland Fund Award. In 2008, he was selected the Composer-of-the-Year by the Classical Recording Foundation in New York. He was the first composer-in-residence with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra under Sir Neville Marriner and he had other residencies at the Marlboro Festival (1971) and the San Francisco Ballet (1973–1986).

Chihara served on the Music/Ethnomusicology faculty at University of California, Los Angeles where he founded and chaired the UCLA Visual Media graduate program which is devoted to training composers for film, Broadway musicals, and/or the concert stage. Additionally he was a

Music Supervisor at Buena Vista Pictures (a Walt Disney Company). As of 2015, Chihara is Professor of Music and Artist Faculty in Film Music at New York University.

Additional information is available at www.paulchiara.com.