

Triomusic (1980)

Donald Freund

"*Triomusic* is something of a musical 'stream of consciousness.' Its identity and cohesiveness emanate from the patterned contrasts and dramatic flow of its sharply profiled, thematically and stylistically incongruous sections. Two ideas create a context for the others. One is the gentle tune with which the pianist introduces Part One and which returns near the end of Part Two. The other is the driving 11/8 – 5/4 ostinato which is first heard in alternation with the 'tune' when it reappears in Part Two, but outgrows balanced proportions to become the propulsive, obsessive concluding section. The first-time listener might feel more secure being guided through the two parts of the piece by the following sectional outline:

Part One: piano tune; violin 'fiery' cadenza; heavy triple 'rock' feel which gradually dissipates; biting, brittle aphorisms; quasi 14th-century chorale (violin and clarinet only); unison statements with sound-space reverberations; enigmatic postlude.

Part Two: frenetic triple cadenza; piano chorale; bright imitative tarantella; another piano chorale, foreboding (*Ach wie flüchtig, ach nichtig...* How fleeting, how void is life); desperate fortissimo trills yielding to pianissimo whispers; segue to return of the piano tune and ostinato finale."

—Donald Freund

The world premiere of *Triomusic* was on January 10, 1982 at the Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, Michigan.

Donald Freund (born 1947, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) earned the Bachelor of Music degree at Duquesne University, the Master of Music and the Doctor of Musical Arts degrees at the Eastman School of Music. His composition teachers were Joseph Wilcox Jenkins, Darius Milhaud, Charles Jones, Wayne Barlow, Warren Benson, and Samuel Adler.

Freund is an internationally recognized composer with works ranging from solo, chamber, and orchestral music to pieces involving live performances with electronic instruments, music for dance, and large theatre works. He has been described as "a composer thoughtful in approach and imaginative in style" (*The Washington Post*), whose music is "exciting, amusing, disturbing, beautiful, and always fascinating" (*Music and Musicians*, London).

Freund has received commissions from the Tennessee Arts Commission in conjunction with Opera Memphis (Tennessee) and the Indiana Music Teachers Association, Memphis in May International Festival, Tennessee Department of Education, Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, Jubal Trio, Memphis Ballet, International Viola Congress, Pastiche Ensemble, Florida State University, Indiana University, Rodrigo Riera International Guitar Festival, Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory, Voces Novae, Germantown (Tennessee) Symphony Orchestra, Whatcom (Washington) Symphony Orchestra, and Ensemble Zellig. His works are published by Lauren Keiser Music, Boosey and Hawkes, E.C. Schirmer, Seesaw, and Vivace Press; many are available on commercial CD.

Freund has been the recipient of numerous prizes and awards including a grant from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, and a Guggenheim fellowship. Prizes include the Washington International String Quartet Composition Competition, the International Society for Contemporary Music/League of Composers International Piano Music Competition, the AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition, the Rodrigo Riera International Competition for Guitar Composition, the Hanson Prize, the McCurdy Award, the Aspen Prize, twenty-five ASCAP Awards, and a MacGeorge Fellowship from the University of Melbourne, Australia.

Freund has presented master classes, given lectures, and served as guest composer at a vast array of universities and music festivals throughout Europe and Asia. He was Composer-in Residence at the Australian National Academy of Music, the Bowdoin International Music Festival and the Brevard Music Center. Lectures from his six-hour series, *Composition Lessons with J.S. Bach*, is available on YouTube.

Also active as a pianist, conductor, and festival coordinator, Freund has programmed over a thousand new American works; he has been conductor or pianist in the performance of some two hundred new pieces, usually in collaboration with the composer. Freund's piano concert repertoire extends from new music to complete performances of Bach's *WTC Book I* and his own pianistic realizations of Machaut. He has performed his *Earthdance Concerto* with numerous university wind ensembles.

Teaching is a major component of Freund's career. From 1972 to 1992, he was Chairman of the Composition Department at Memphis State University where he founded and coordinated an annual New Music Festival. Since 1992, he has been Professor of Composition at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. His students have won an impressive array of awards and recognitions.

Videos, audio files, pdf scores and additional information about works and performances are available at donfreund.com.