

Triada (1+2+3) (2004)

Cristóbal Halffter

Triada (1+2+3) is an eighteen minute trio for violin, clarinet and piano which I wrote as a commissioned work from Michigan State University for the Verdehr Trio to whom I dedicate this work. The world premiere was in November, 2004, at the Phillips Collection in Washington, DC.

In this piece I follow the pythagorean concept of the whole entity as sum of 1+2, in that I represent the various combination variations which offer themselves to me: the clarinet plays together with the piano against the violin; the violin with the clarinet against the piano, and the piano with the violin against the clarinet. The three instruments on the one hand form a compact entity, and can however also—individually observed—stand on their own. This results in a work in which I intended to create a sound arising from the specific combination of three instruments with very differentiated tonal characteristics and which, in the end, results in a homogeneous whole.”

—Cristóbal Halffter

The world premiere of *Triada* was on November 12, 2004 in the Music Room, The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

Cristóbal Halffter (born 1930, Madrid, Spain) was the nephew of Spanish composers Rodolfo and Ernesto Halffter. A student at the Real Conservatorio de Musica in Madrid, he graduated in 1951 and began to work for the Spanish Radio, later becoming conductor of the de Falla Orchestra. As a teacher and lecturer, he has taught at the Real Conservatorio de Musica in Madrid, the University of Navarra, and the Internationale Feirenkurse for New Music at Darmstadt, Germany. He was president of the Spanish section of the ISCM from 1976–1978 and later chosen as artistic director of the Studio for Electronic music in Freiburg. He is a member of the European Academy of Science, Arts, and Humanities in Paris and the Royal Academy of Fine Arts San Fernando in Madrid.

Halffter has received numerous honors: in 1976 he received the Prix d'Italia della RAI; in 1981 the Gold Medal for Fine Arts by King Juan Carlos of Spain; in 1994 the Montaigne Award of the Hamburg Germany Stiftung F.V.S; in 1995 the European Prize for Composition in Karlsruhe, Germany; and in 2009, BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in Contemporary Music. In 2003, an orchestral work commissioned by the Vienna Philharmonic was premiered at the Salzburg Festival. As a conductor, he has appeared with many important orchestras in Europe and America including the National Orchestra of Madrid. He lives with his wife, pianist Maria Manuela Caro, in Madrid.