

*Island of Dreams (Three Dances) (1993)*

**Matthew Harris**

"I wrote *Island of Dreams* in the summer and fall of 1993. I had already worked Latin-American dance rhythms into my music in my last piece, *City of Flamingos*, and wanted to go further in this direction. I also wanted to write a work that reflected the bright combination of clarinet, violin, and piano.

There's a short but haunting introduction to the *Tango*, which reprises in an extended version after the *Rumba*. Otherwise, the mood is pretty sunny in this short, eight-minute suite.

I have dedicated *Island of Dreams* to the Verdehr Trio."

—Matthew Harris

The world premiere of *Island of Dreams (Three Dances)* was on June 15, 1994 at the Verdehr Trio Summer Chamber Music Concert Series at the Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

Matthew Harris (born 1956, North Tarrytown, New York) studied at the Juilliard School, the New England Conservatory, and Harvard University.

Harris's instrumental music has been performed by the symphony orchestras in Minnesota, Houston, Florida, Jacksonville, Chattanooga, Spokane, and Modesto. Chamber performances include those by the Lark Quartet, Alea III, New York New Music Ensemble, and League-ISCM. His highly popular choral works have been commissioned and premiered by leading choruses such as the Dale Warland Singers, Phoenix Bach Choir, Los Angeles Chamber Singers, Western Wind, Canton New York, and numerous school and community choirs across the country. A cantata commissioned by Harmonium, *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, has been performed extensively in the United States and the United Kingdom. His operas have been presented by Chelsea Opera, New York City Opera, Lake George Opera Festival, and Golden Fleece, LTD. A monodrama, *As You Choose*, was produced at the Southern Theatre in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Harris has received two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, Tanglewood, Meet the Composer, Composers Conference at Wellesley, Ives Center, Conductors Institute, and the MacDowell, Millay, Virginia, and Yaddo artist colonies. Composition awards include those from Chautauqua Chamber Singers, Georges Enesco Foundation, Society for New Music, National Association of Composers, Musicians Accord, Diva Complex, Taubman Institute, American Society of Composers and Publishers, and BMI.

Harris's commissions include those from the Fromm Foundation, Aspen Music Festival, Modesto Symphony Orchestra, Haydn-Mozart Orchestra, American Composers Forum, Schubert Club, US-Mexico Cultural Fund, Urban Birds, Casa Verde Trio, marimbist Leigh Howard Stevens, and the Maelstrom Percussion Ensemble.

C.F. Peters and American Composers Alliance publish Harris's music; Resonus Classics, Chandos, G. Schirmer, Albany Records, Cedille, MSR Classics, and Opus One represent him on discs.

Harris teaches at Brooklyn College, CUNY and New York City College of Technology, CUNY. Previously, he taught at Fordham University and Kingsborough College, CUNY. He has served on the board of League-ISCM, the American Composers Alliance. He works as a music editor and musicologist in New York City. In 1988, he founded Harris Musicology.

Additional information is available at [www.matthewharrismusic.com](http://www.matthewharrismusic.com).

