

*Phantasy Trio* (1994)

Roger Ruggeri

“A longtime friend and colleague of the Verdehr Trio (in the case of Elsa and Gary, dating back to our years at the Eastman School of Music), I was pleased to be asked to write a piece for their ensemble. For several years, a series of other commitments kept me from the project; it was not really until the spring of 1994 that I was able to devote adequate time to getting it on paper. Something of a departure from my more usual compositional concerns, the present trio is a kaleidoscope of personal associations and allusions. Arising from the materials of its opening measures, it unfolds freely through five successive episodes, ultimately transcending darkness and gaining a realm of exhilaration.”

—Roger Ruggeri

The world premiere of *Phantasy Trio* was on November 24, 1994 at Desert Palms Presbyterian Church, Sun City West, Arizona.

Roger Ruggeri (born 1939) is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and has been featured as soloist and composer with a number of organizations. He was a member of the Rochester Philharmonic and Dallas Symphony before joining the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra in 1962 where he performed as principal double bassist until 2005. During that time, he was also performed at the Grand Teton Music Festival in Wyoming.

Ruggeri is active as a composer, program annotator, and lecturer. His *Fanfare: MCMXC* was a winner in the MSO's Wisconsin Composers' Fanfare Competition in 1990. In addition to a number of his works for youth concerts, the MSO has performed his *Mythos and Memento mori* and has recorded *If...Then* on the Pro Arte label. Through a commissioning grant from Meet the Composer, his *Symphonia for Strings* was premiered by the Chamber Orchestra of Milwaukee's High School of the Arts in 1992.

Ruggeri served as the MSO's program annotator for many years and was a musician-elected representative to the MSO's board. He has also held leadership positions in a number of nationwide musician advocacy groups. He has been listed in the *International Who's Who in Music* and *Who's Who in Wisconsin*.

Ruggeri has taught at Southern Methodist University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the Wisconsin Conservatory.