

W. Jay Sydeman

Sonata No. 2
for Violin and Piano
(1984)

Andante $\text{♩} = 104$ Sonata for Vn & Piano Sydeman

mp

mp

1 3

1 3

MMP

First page of manuscript

The 1984 Sonata hearkens back somewhat to Hindemith in the first movement. It is lyrical in a vigorous sort of way, or perhaps vigorous in a lyrical sort of way. Take your pick! The second movement is intense and introspective ... one of the loveliest works (I believe) I have written, while the third has a Stravinsky-an sort of high energy, rhythmic feel, and even pan-diatonic tonal language.

I cannot recall whom I wrote this work for (over 25 years ago), but judging from the more familiar style that it is written in and also from the fact that I had become a minor violist (attending chamber music workshops and such), I have to assume it might have been written for a dedicated amateur. I am somewhat proud to have written a series of works that are not hugely demanding technically and could add to the repertoire of enthusiastic string players. This actually was quite a large focus of my composing during the 'eighties, and I have come to understand that technical demands do not necessarily create a more profound musical experience... often quite the opposite. So this body of work may ultimately fill an important niche in the repertoire. I hope so.

– W. Jay Sydeman, February 2011 & April 2012

W. Jay Sydeman's life mirrors the breadth and variety of his music. Born in New York in 1928 and educated at Manhattan's Mannes School of Music, he quickly became one of the most sought-after and honored composers of his generation, receiving commissions from such prestigious groups as the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Tanglewood Music Center, and the Boston Symphony, which premiered his orchestral work in memory of John F. Kennedy in 1966. "Sydeman uses a whole battery of far out techniques," wrote the New York Times, "but he has an uncanny ability to throw in the whole avant-garde machinery as if it were the simplest, most normal way of making music in the world ... More than many of his colleagues, he seems to know what will sound well, and he works for some remarkably attractive, pure textures. His sounds seem to grow from a physical sense of exactly what material is right."

In 1970, after a heady period that included awards from the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Library of Congress, Sydeman left New York – and composition – to begin a journey of personal and artistic exploration.

"Around 1980," he has written, "I returned to composition – at first a large number of choral works which reconnected me to the source of all music – the human voice. Out of this new lyric impulse have evolved all of my works since that time – more romantic, more accessible. I create music for the musician."

– Howard Hersh,
Artistic Director of "Music Now"

Sydeman is part of a composers' group in Nevada City annually producing the "Wet Ink Festival of New Music." He now lives in Mendocino and hosts a bi-weekly program on KZYX, "The Mind of a Composer", 10 am to noon on Mondays, introducing and commenting on contemporary music.

Duration: I. Andante – circa 2:00
II. Rubato espressivo – circa 4:00
III. Allegro – circa 2:30

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(1984)

I.

Andante ♩ = c. 104

Violin

Piano

mp

mp

4

8

A

mp sub.

mp

12

3

15

B

18

(mp)

solo

mf *sempre stacc.*

21

mf marc.

solo

mf *semi-stacc.*

24

p

solo

p

6

6

26

p

p sub.

p sub.

solo

mp

28

mp

f

p sub.

30

mf

f

mp

C

33

mp

38

f

42

f
solo

45

f

47 **D** *quasi-cadenza*

rit.-----a tempo

ff *8va* *loco* *sfz* *f*

51 *8va* *mp* *rit.-----a tempo*

mp

55

58 *f on the string* *8vb*

II.

Rubato espressivo ♩ = c. 38

The musical score is written for a single melodic line and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked 'Rubato espressivo' with a quarter note equal to approximately 38 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C).

The first system (measures 1-3) features a melodic line starting with a rest, followed by a series of notes with vibrato (Vib.) and a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

The second system (measures 4-6) continues the melodic line with more vibrato and a triplet. The piano accompaniment remains consistent.

The third system (measures 7-9) includes a section marked 'A' in a box. The melodic line features triplets and a crescendo leading to a 'p sub.' (piano subito) marking. The piano accompaniment also features a crescendo and a 'p sub.' marking.

Performance markings include 'N.V.' (Non Vibrato) and 'Vib.' (Vibrato) above the melodic line, and 'p' (piano) and 'p sub.' (piano subito) below the piano part.

10

B

N.V.

Vib.

13

poco rit. - a tempo

C

17

pp *mp*

p

20

p sub.

p sub.

22

dim.

poco rit. - - - - a tempo

D

tender p

24

3

26

poco rit.-----

28

pp tender

a tempo

p sub.

Vib.

30

rit.-----a tempo

p

E

33

33 34 35

F
36

36 37 38

39

poco sul pont.

pp

dim. & rit.

39 40 41

III.

Allegro ♩. = c. 120

mp *spicc.*

mp

p sub.

f

ff

8vb

p

pp *sempre stacc.*

mf

loco

A

11

Measures 11-13 of the musical score. The piece is in 3/8 time. Measure 11 features a treble staff with a half note G4 and a bass staff with a half note F3. Measure 12 has a treble staff with a half note A4 and a bass staff with a half note G3. Measure 13 has a treble staff with a half note B4 and a bass staff with a half note A3. Dynamics include *cresc.* in both staves.

14

Measures 14-16 of the musical score. Measure 14 has a treble staff with a half note G4 and a bass staff with a half note F3. Measure 15 has a treble staff with a half note A4 and a bass staff with a half note G3. Measure 16 has a treble staff with a half note B4 and a bass staff with a half note A3. Dynamics include *mf* in the bass staff and *f* in the treble staff.

17

Measures 17-19 of the musical score. Measure 17 has a treble staff with a half note G4 and a bass staff with a half note F3. Measure 18 has a treble staff with a half note A4 and a bass staff with a half note G3. Measure 19 has a treble staff with a half note B4 and a bass staff with a half note A3. Dynamics include *mp* in the treble staff and *mf* in the bass staff.

20

Measures 20-22 of the musical score. Measure 20 has a treble staff with a half note G4 and a bass staff with a half note F3. Measure 21 has a treble staff with a half note A4 and a bass staff with a half note G3. Measure 22 has a treble staff with a half note B4 and a bass staff with a half note A3. Dynamics include *p* in the treble staff and *mf* in the bass staff.

23

mf

p

f

26

at frog

B

ff

mp

ff

mp

8vb

loco

cresc.

30

f

(mp)

f

p

8vb

f

loco

34

dim.

p

p

mf

ff

p

8vb

loco

sul pont.

38 ord. *mf* sul pont. *p* ord. *f* *mf* *8vb*

41 *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

45 *f* *mp* *f* *ff*

C 48 *N.V.* *p* *mp* *f*

52

mf *p* *f* *mp* *ff* *8va*

57

mp *p* *mf*

62

D

ord. vib.

67

f *mp*

(♩=♩ sempre)

71

f

E

73

at frog

ff

78

ff

83 F

mp

mp

87

p sub.

f

p

mp

p sub.

p

90

p sub.

f

p sub.

94 G

cresc.

cresc.

98

101

f

f

mf

103

103

mp

sfzp

p

Measures 103-105: The score is in 6/8 time. Measure 103 features a melody in the treble clef starting on G4, marked *mp*. Measure 104 has a piano accompaniment in the left hand with a *p* dynamic. Measure 105 shows a forte piano (*sfzp*) in the treble and a piano accompaniment in the left hand.

106

106

mf

spicc.

H

Measures 106-108: Measure 106 continues the melody in the treble, marked *mf*. Measure 107 features a piano accompaniment in the left hand. Measure 108 is marked *spicc.* (staccato) and includes a box labeled **H** above the treble staff.

109

mp *p* continue playing ostinato (independent of piano)

f *ff*

113

p *f* *mp*

(♩=♩ sempre)

116

f *mp*

119 *(violin rit. is independent of piano)*

rit. -----

124 **I**

più rit. -----

a tempo

f

127

dim. -----

p