

W. Jay Sydeman

Duo
for Flute (or Violin) and Viola
(c. 1984)

Gravioso $\text{♩} = 88$ For FLUTE and VIOLA Snyderman

accidentals apply only to the note and its immediate renotation

First page of manuscript

This is *Gebrauch Musik* for the odd married (or not) couple (or not) playing flute and viola. Entertaining, with some quirky rhythms. (I borrowed the “quirky rhythms” bit from a *Time* magazine article about me which I loathed.)

Nevertheless, movement 1 has a flirtation with dance... hinted at but rarely consummated. Movement 2 continues with more overt dance-like qualities. Shifting rhythms and some odd accents account for much of the aforementioned quirkiness. It is tricky, but fun to play.

– W. Jay Sydeman, February-March 2011

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. Grazioso – circa 0:45
II. Allegro – circa 2:45

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Duo

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I.

W. Jay Sydeman
(c. 1984)

Grazioso ♩ = c. 88

Fl

mp *rit.----- a tempo*

Vla

p

4

mp cresc.-----

rit.-----

p cresc.-----

A

7

p sub.

a tempo

mf *p* *mf*

pizz.

p sub.

mf *arco*

9

mp

p

p

B

12

mp *mp* *p sub.*

16

mp *p sub.*

19

mp *p sub.* (pizz.)

21

mf *f* *pizz.* *mp*

II.

Allegro $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 64$

mf
 mf
 p
 4
 (♩ = ♩)
 sul pont.
 6
 ord.
 sul pont.
 pizz.
 f
 f
 A
 9
 mf
 arco (ord.)
 mf
 p

12

f *mp* *f*

f *mp* *f*

15

ff *mf* sub.

ff *mf* sub. pizz. +

18

p *mf* *mf*

arco *p* Fine *mf* pizz. +

21

mf

arco *mf*

24

mp sub. *mf* *p sub.*

C

27

p *mf*

30

mf *mp*

33

D

p sub. *mf*

36

40

43

47

50

D.C. al Fine