

W. Jay Sydeman

Sonata No. 5 “Miha”
for Violin and Piano
(1985)

Miha Pogačnik, a quite extraordinary Yugoslavian violinist, kept appearing on programs in which my music was being performed (or vice versa). So whether he was the cart and I was the horse (or vice versa), it seemed destined that we shared some kind of cosmic interaction – so (naturally) I wrote him a piece. He is an artist who eschews the recording medium, but others (fortunately for me) do not share this proclivity, thus recordings are available.

The language of the piece is somewhat reminiscent of Alban Berg, with dark moods alternating with lively sections, the piano particularly occasionally becoming somewhat raucous. The piece ends with an intensely lyrical section with a “fluff” of a coda in the violin. I believe to be one of my more significant works, both musically and technically.

– W. Jay Sydeman, July 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: circa 9:00

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for Violin and Piano

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(1985)

Adagio ♩ = c. 63

Violin

N.V. *p* *poco sul pont.* *ord. N.V.* *vib.* *dolce*

* slide up to B then swiftly change to harmonic

allarg.----- a tempo rit.-----

Piano

mf *f*

6

Violin

N.V. *ord. pizz.* *arco* *sfz p*

a tempo

Piano

p *mf*

10

A

Violin

p *espr.*

Piano

p *espr.*

14

mp

rit.

8vb

18

p

a tempo

pp

loco

8vb

21

ff

allarg.

8va

(8vb)

B Allegro ♩ = c. 108

23

23

p *fp* *mp* *pizz.* *f* *8vb*

27

27

f *sfz* *pp* *arco* *f* *loco*

31

31

mp *pizz.* *f* *mp dolce* *p* *mp*

35

8^{va}

8^{vb}

mp

f

loco

39

(8^{va})

fp

fp

mp

41

(8^{va})

D

loco

mp

45

mp *f* *ff*

8vb - -

48

f *ff* *furioso*

8vb

50

mp *fp* *mf* *ff*

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Allegro ♩. = 144

emphasize first note of every group

62 **Tempo II** ♩ = c. 108

f (ca. 3'') *p*

66 **F Vivace** ♩ = c. 152
 Con sord. poco sul pont., slightly off string
p expectational

upper notes of right hand are thematic *p*

69

p

72

72

73

74

75

mf

75

76

77

77

78

79

80

3 3

p

83

86

[illegible]

92

Handwritten musical score for 'The Rose Tree'. The score is written on three staves. The top staff is for the voice, and the bottom two staves are for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 2/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and ornaments. The piano part features triplets and slurs. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

95

mf

p

98

101

104

H

Senza sord.
ord.

mf

più mosso

mp spooky

p

8^{va}

8^{vb}

108

f

sul pont. *p*

ord. *N.V.* *pp*

(8^{va})

112

(8^{va})

mf

loco

(8^{vb})

I

116

mp

pizz. *ord. vib.* arco

pizz. arco

loco *p*

120 pizz. arco $\rightarrow$ sul pont.

sfz *pp* *pp* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

125 J ord.

mf *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *8vb sfz*

129 sul pont. ord.

mf *pp*

133

f *mp* *sfz* *f*

pizz.

p *very stacc.*

loco

136

arco

mp

139

f *f*

(♩=♩) quasi-scherzando

141 K

p

f sub.

145

mp spicc.

p

sfz

148 *mp* pizz. arco

151 *f* *p sub.* sul pont.

153 *p* *mf* *fp* ord.

The musical score is divided into three systems, each containing a violin staff and a piano staff. The first system (measures 148-150) is in 6/8 time. The violin part begins with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic and a pizzicato (pizz.) instruction. The piano part also starts with mp. The second system (measures 151-152) is in 3/4 time. The violin part features a forte (f) dynamic and a piano (p) dynamic. The piano part has a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The third system (measures 153-154) is in 6/8 time. The violin part has a fortissimo (fp) dynamic and a piano (p) dynamic. The piano part has a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

156

f *p* *mf* *mp*

159

mf *mp* *f*

162

f *ff* *p* *8vb* *loco*

L Tempo I ♩ = c. 63

165 Con sord. *pp* *poco sul pont.* *dolce* *vib.* *ord. N.V.*

The first system of music (measures 165-170) features a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. It begins with a *pp* dynamic and a *Con sord.* marking. The melody includes several ornaments, including a mordent and a grace note. The dynamics shift to *poco sul pont.* and then *dolce*. A *vib.* marking is present over a trill. The bottom staff, on a grand staff, provides a piano accompaniment with chords and a *L.V.* (Lento) marking. The piano part includes *mf* and *f* dynamics.

Magical! ♩ = sub. c. 52

170 *mp* *Reo.* * *Reo.* * *Reo.* * *Reo.* *

The second system of music (measures 170-173) continues the melodic line. The piano accompaniment in the bottom staff becomes more active, featuring triplets and a *Reo.* (Ritardando) marking. The dynamics are marked *mp*. The system ends with a series of asterisks indicating a continuation or a specific performance instruction.

173 *Reo.* * *Reo.* * *Reo.* * *Reo.* *

The third system of music (measures 173-176) continues the melodic line. The piano accompaniment in the bottom staff features triplets and a *Reo.* (Ritardando) marking. The system ends with a series of asterisks indicating a continuation or a specific performance instruction.

176 M

8^{va}

Loco. * Loco. * Loco. * Loco. *

178 *loco* *p*

Loco. 3 * *pedal generously throughout*

181

184

185

186

187

N

188

189

190

Measures 190-191. The score is in common time (C) and changes to 2/4 time at measure 191. The melody in the treble clef features a series of eighth and quarter notes with various accidentals. The piano accompaniment in the grand staff includes a five-measure rest in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand at measure 190, and a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand at measure 191.

192

Measures 192-193. The score is in common time (C) and changes to 2/4 time at measure 193. The melody in the treble clef features a series of eighth and quarter notes with various accidentals. The piano accompaniment in the grand staff includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand at measure 192, and a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand at measure 193.

195

Measures 195-196. The score is in common time (C) and changes to 2/4 time at measure 196. The melody in the treble clef features a series of eighth and quarter notes with various accidentals. The piano accompaniment in the grand staff includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand at measure 195, and a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand at measure 196.

200

3

8^{va}

loco

2/4

203

pp *sub.* *loco*

pp *sub.*

3

3

205

pp

mp

8vb-

208

sul pont.
N.V.

pp

(8vb)

211

8va-

rit.-

(8vb)

P Molto allegro ♩ = 152

214

a tempo

p stacc.
poco sul pont.

(8va)

(8vb)

217

poco

let die

(8va)

(8vb)