

W. Jay Sydeman

Five Little Pieces
for Flute and Violin
(c. 1975)

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 a member of Nevada County Composers Cooperative, a composers' group in Nevada City annually producing the "Wet Ink Festival of New Music." He now lives in Mendocino.

- Duration:**
- I. Andante – circa 1:30
 - II. "A Good Time Was Had ..." (Jolly) – circa 1:00
 - III. Odd Duo (Largo) – circa 1:15
 - IV. Happy Time (Poco allegro) – circa 1:45
 - V. Quasi-dance (Poco allegro) – circa 2:00

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Five Little Pieces

for Flute and Violin

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(c. 1975)

I.

Andante ♩ = c. 84

Fl *p* *sweet*

Vln *mp*

6

A

11

16

B *mp*

rit. *a tempo*

p

21

Measures 21-25 of a musical score in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The upper staff features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The lower staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with dotted half notes and eighth notes. A crescendo hairpin is located at the end of measure 25.

26

Measures 26-30 of a musical score in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The upper staff continues the melodic line. The lower staff includes a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking with a dashed line spanning measures 28 and 29, and a 'pizz.' (pizzicato) marking at the start of measure 30. A double bar line concludes the section at the end of measure 30. Crescendo hairpins are present at the end of measures 26, 28, and 29.

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II. "A Good Time Was Had..."

Jolly ♩. = c. 84

mp

mp

5

stacc.

10

A

14

B

18

p stacc.

spicc.

p

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a piece titled "A Good Time Was Had...". The tempo is marked "Jolly" with a quarter note equal to approximately 84 beats per minute. The music is written in 6/8 time and consists of two staves. The first system (measures 1-4) features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both marked *mp*. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the melody and bass line, with a *stacc.* marking in the right hand. The third system (measures 9-13) includes a section labeled "A" in measure 10. The fourth system (measures 14-17) continues the melody and bass line. The fifth system (measures 18-21) includes a section labeled "B" in measure 18, with a *p stacc.* marking in the right hand and a *spicc.* marking in the left hand. The piece concludes with a final measure in the right hand marked *p*.

III. Odd Duo

Largo ♩ = c. 52

The musical score for "III. Odd Duo" is written for two staves in common time (C). The tempo is marked "Largo" with a quarter note equal to approximately 52 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into four systems, each containing two staves. The first system begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic on the upper staff and a piano (*p*) dynamic on the lower staff. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes) and slurs. The second system starts with a measure number '4' at the beginning of the upper staff. The third system starts with a measure number '6' at the beginning of the upper staff. The fourth system is marked with a boxed 'A' and a measure number '8' at the beginning of the upper staff. The score concludes with a final cadence in the fourth system.

10

dim. *p* *mf* pizz. arco *p*

This system contains measures 10 and 11. Measure 10 features a treble staff with a melodic line of eighth and sixteenth notes, marked with a *dim.* (diminuendo) hairpin. The bass staff has a whole rest followed by a half note G2, marked with a *p* (piano) dynamic. Measure 11 continues the treble staff melody, which includes a key signature change to one sharp (F#). The bass staff has a half note G#2 marked *mf* (mezzo-forte), followed by a quarter rest, then a half note G2 marked *p* (piano). The section concludes with the instruction *arco* (arco) above the bass staff.

12

This system contains measures 12 and 13. Measure 12 has a treble staff with a half note G2 and a bass staff with a half note G2. Measure 13 continues the treble staff melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass staff has a half note G#2. Both measures feature crescendo hairpins.

B
14

p pizz. arco *mp* pizz.

This system contains measures 14 and 15. Measure 14 features a treble staff with a half note G2 marked *p* (piano), and a bass staff with a half note G2 marked *pizz.* (pizzicato). Measure 15 continues the treble staff melody with a half note G2, while the bass staff has a half note G#2 marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The system ends with a double bar line and a final crescendo hairpin.

IV. Happy Time

Poco allegro $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 112$

The musical score for 'IV. Happy Time' is written for piano in common time (C). It consists of four systems of two staves each. The first system includes the tempo marking 'Poco allegro' and the metronome indication '♩ = c. 112'. The first staff of the first system is marked 'mp stacc.' and the second staff is marked 'pizz.' and 'mp'. The second system begins at measure 5. The third system begins at measure 10 and includes a section marked 'A' in a box, starting at measure 12. The fourth system begins at measure 15. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, accidentals, and dynamic markings like 'mp' (mezzo-piano) and 'p' (piano). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from common time to 2/4 at measure 12 and back to common time at measure 18.

5

10

15

mp stacc.

pizz.

mp

arco

p

p

A

20

cresc. *f*

p cresc. *mf*

25

pizz.

B

30

mp espr.

arco

p

35

p

stacc.

40

pizz.

V.S.

46 C

arco *mp* *stacc.* pizz.

50

55

59 D

mf *mf*

63

68

mp

p stacc.

73

mf *cresc.* *pizz.*

E
77

81

mp *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *mf* *f*

86

f V.S.

14

F

91

mp

p

mp

mf

95

p

pizz. 3

mf

arco

V. Quasi-dance

Poco allegro ♩ = c. 112

solo
mf
mp

6

11

A *mp*

poco rit. ----- *a tempo*

solo
mf

17

mf

24

mf

cresc. -----

V.S.

30 B

mf

35

mp

41

mp

47

mf

C

51

p stacc.

solo

54

58

stacc.

solo

poco rit. --- a tempo

cresc. ---

mp stacc.

cresc. ---

62

D

p

p

68

pizz.

poco rit. --- a tempo

arco

stacc.