

W. Jay Sydeman

Duo
for Violin and Viola
(c. 1970)

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: circa 4:00

Edited by W. Jay Sydeman and Rick Shinozaki. For more information: rickshinozaki@gmail.com

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Larghetto ♩ = c. 50

The musical score is written for Violin (Vln) and Viola (Vla) in common time (C). The tempo is Larghetto, with a quarter note equal to approximately 50 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

Measures 1-3: The Violin part begins with a melody marked *mp rubato espr.* The Viola part enters in measure 2 with a similar melodic line, also marked *mp rubato espr.* Both parts feature slurs and dynamic markings like *>* and *<*.

Measures 4-6: The Violin part has a long note in measure 4 marked *pp*. The Viola part continues with a more active, eighth-note melody. Dynamic markings *>* and *<* are present.

Measures 7-9: The Violin part continues with a melodic line. The Viola part has a long note in measure 7 marked *pp*. The Violin part has a dynamic marking *pp* in measure 8.

Measures 10-12: The Violin part has a melodic line with a dynamic marking *p* in measure 11. The Viola part has a triplet of eighth notes in measure 11 and 12, marked with a '3'.

Section Marker: A box labeled 'A' is placed above the Violin staff at the beginning of measure 11.

14

16

B
18

21

24

34

mp

37

Musical score for 'The Rose Tree' (Meisterlied). The score is written for voice and piano. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The time signature is 3/4. The score consists of two systems. The first system has two staves: a vocal staff (treble clef) and a piano staff (bass clef). The second system also has two staves: a vocal staff (treble clef) and a piano staff (bass clef). The piano part features a prominent bass line with many triplets and a right hand that plays chords and single notes. The vocal part is a simple melody. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

D

40

arco

3 3

43

3 3 3 3

45

3

48

pizz.

mf *p*

mf p