

DINOS CONSTANTINIDES

Three Sonatas for Solo Violin

LRC63a



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Duration – 25:00

Sonata for Solo Violin No. 1 (1968) is a serial work like most of the composer's work from this period. The first movement is slow and lyrical. The second movement uses the effect of melody and accompaniment at the same time, as used by Johann Sebastian Bach in one of his solo violin sonatas. The third movement is energetic and coloristic.

This piece has been performed extensively in the past by the composer as soloist, in Europe and the United States. It has received rave reviews from German, Greek, and English newspapers. The soloist of today's performance, Borislava Iltcheva has performed the piece in Athens and Thessaloniki in Greece and at Louisiana State University as a part of the contemporary festival of the institution. It will be recorded at a later date.

Sonata for Solo Violin No. 2 focuses on the virtuosic techniques of the violin. A series of parallel major sevenths is used throughout the piece as a sort of ritornello. The form is ABABA with the A section focusing on such effects as left hand pizzicato, glissandos, ricochet, and harmonics. The B section is tonal, using a compound melody effect.

Sonata for Solo Violin No.3 was drawn from an earlier piece, Kaleidoscope for Narrator and Chamber Ensemble, which is a concise version of an earlier multimedia work entitled "Kaleidoscope for Soprano, violin, cello, piano and two slide projectors." About this latter work the composer wrote: "For a long time I have had the desire to work with 'multimedia', and conceived the idea of writing this specific composition after studying some children's paintings. These paintings were done entirely through instinct with very little regard for the traditional methods, which stem from education and experience. They gave me certain impressions, which I felt could be transformed into musical sounds. The slides were done from the paintings or a portion of them and give no clear images. They create certain color moods. The words of colors and certain vague images were transformed into two letter series (twenty-four letters of the alphabet) which themselves stand for certain pitches. Two letters, j and z, represent a slide-effect upwards and downwards respectively. These two series pervade the entire work."

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The music of Dinos Constantinides has been performed throughout the world. He is the recipient of many grants, commissions and awards, including first prize in the 1981 Brooklyn College International Chamber Opera Competition and the 1985 First Midwest Chamber Opera Conference. He also received the 1985 American New Music Consortium Distinguished Service Award, the 1989 Glen Award of l'Ensemble of New York, several Meet the Composer grants and numerous ASCAP Standard Awards. In the 1994 he was honored with a Distinguished Teacher White House Commission on Presidential Scholars.