

Rick Sowash

EROICA

Sunny Days

for violin, clarinet & piano; 1994, rev. 1996 [17:55]

- | | |
|--------------------|--------|
| [1] I. Moderato | [4:52] |
| [2] II. Allegretto | [5:12] |
| [3] III. Moderato | [3:45] |
| [4] IV. Vivo | [4:06] |

Convivial Suite

for violin and cello; 1999 [12:51]

- | | |
|-----------------|--------|
| [5] I. Fugue | [2:20] |
| [6] II. Waltz | [2:44] |
| [7] III. Blues | [1:16] |
| [8] IV. March | [2:05] |
| [9] V. Adagio | [1:34] |
| [10] VI. Finale | [2:52] |

Impressionist Suite #1

for oboe, clarinet & bassoon; 2000 [12:13]

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| [11] I. Monet: a seascape | [2:01] |
| [12] II. Renoir: the play of colors | [2:46] |
| [13] III. Manet: Spanish subjects | [7:26] |

Eroica

Piano Trio #5; 2000 [27:54]

- | | |
|------------------|---------|
| [14] I. Allegro | [12:27] |
| [15] II. Adagio | [5:38] |
| [16] III. Presto | [9:49] |

Total playing time [71:51]

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Rick Sowash **EROICA**





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I think heroic deeds were all conceiv'd
in the open air, and all great poems also;
I think I could stop here myself,
and do miracles...

From this hour, freedom!
From this hour I ordain myself loos'd
of limits and imaginary lines,
Going where I list, my own master,
total and absolute...

Walt Whitman

The composer wishes to acknowledge the support of WGUC-FM, Cincinnati's classic music radio station, in the production of this CD. Special thanks go to WGUC's Rich Eiswerth, Robin Gehl and Jeff Beuttner. The composer is also grateful to the Cincinnati Art Museum for permission to use on the CD cover a photograph of a sculpture from the CAM collection. Thanks also go to Damon Sink, technical producer for much of the recording, mixing and editing, and to Randall Wright for the design of the cover and liner notes.

Cincinnati Art Museum
Museum Purchase

Bust of male diety (Helios type)
Khirbet Tannur/Nabataean
1st Century BC



Sunny Days

for violin, clarinet & piano; 1994, rev. 1996
four movements [17:55]

Paul Patterson, violin, Anthony Costa, clarinet, Phil Amalong, piano

Convivial Suite

for violin and cello; 1999
six movements [12:51]

Laura Bossert, violin, Terry King, cello

Impressionist Suite #1

for oboe, clarinet & bassoon; 2000
three movements [12:13]

Mark Ostoich, oboe, Ron Aufmann, clarinet, Mark Ortwein, bassoon

Eroica

Piano Trio #5; 2000
three movements [27:54]

Laura Bossert, violin, Terry King, cello, Phil Amalong, piano

Total playing time [71:51]

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Sunny Days

suite for violin, clarinet and piano. 1994, rev. 1996

Corinne Cook's North Carolina-based violin-clarinet-piano trio chose for their ensemble the name "Sonsa" (meaning "sun" in Russian) because each member has family in Belo-Russia. When Ms. Cook asked me to compose a work for the trio to play while on tour in Belo-Russia, I asked her to send me some Belo-Russian folksongs. In this suite I gave those folksongs an "American" treatment as a metaphor of hope, cooperation and mutual appreciation between Russia and America in the post-Cold War world. The character of the piece is generally "sunny," optimistic, tender and sometimes humorous.

Other CDs featuring the Music of Rick Sowash:

Rick Sowash: A Portrait at 50

Five works for various chamber ensembles

Rick Sowash: The Four Piano Trios

The Mirecourt Trio

Rick Sowash: Chamber Music with Clarinet

The Mirecourt Trio and Craig Olzenak, clarinet



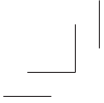
Music for the Appalachian Trail

includes my Fantasia on 'Shenandoah' for string quartet


Songs of Humor & Satire

The Gregg Smith Singers
includes my "Philosophical Anecdotes"

For more information on these CDs, or on Rick Sowash's sheet music, books, tapes and services, consult his web site:
www.sowash.com




Rick Sowash (*b. 1950*) claims to be the only American composer of classical music ever elected to a public office — he served four years as a County Commissioner in his native Richland County, Ohio. Unlike most composers, Sowash has not sought an academic or commercial career in music. Following the example of Charles Ives, Sowash chose to retain his art as a passionate avocation, earning most of his living in non-musical ways. He has been a politician, theatre manager, radio broadcaster, and innkeeper. He is the author of two books: *Rispsnorting Whoppers: Humor from America's Heartland* and *Heroes of Ohio: 23 True Tales of Courage and Character*. He is a member of ASCAP, both as a composer and publisher. Many of his 200+ works are published, performed and broadcast around the world. Today Sowash lives in Cincinnati with his wife Jo (whom he wed in 1972), their daughter Shenandoah and son John Chapman.




Convivial Suite

for violin and cello. 1999



I wrote the “Convivial Suite” for two pairs of friends who enjoy playing the violin and cello together. One was a pair of Cincinnatians, Christine Nichols (violinist) and Bernice Robinson (cellist). Bernice first suggested the idea of writing a violin-cello duo. I was toying with it when another cellist friend, Terry King, suggested the same idea. He had married the violinist Laura Bossert, the two live in Boston, and he wanted me to write something they could play together. Since the piece was written for friends, I decided to call it “Convivial Suite.” The keys of the movements center on d minor, admittedly not the most convivial of keys, but I think the music is suggestive of merriment, nevertheless. The Adagio is an exception, dark and deeply felt, as if the friends are sharing sorrows. But the finale is fun, even zany, so all ends happily.






Impressionist Suite #1

“Three Major Painters”

for oboe, A clarinet & bassoon. 2000




I wrote this piece specially for my dear friend Lucien Aubert, who is the clarinetist in the celebrated French reed trio, le trio d’anches Ozi. Since they are Frenchmen, playing for French audiences, I thought a suite of music about French Impressionist painters might be a pleasing prospect for all concerned. As I thought about how to give musical expression to aspects of each of the famous Impressionists, I became excited and inspired. The result was a six-movement suite that was just too long. So I broke it up into two three-movement suites. The Impressionist Suite #2: “Four Minor Painters” will be included on a forthcoming CD of my music.



Eroica

Trio #5 for violin, cello and piano. 2000



My friend Sean Sexton paints huge, courageous still lifes in a little outbuilding on his cattle ranch in Florida. When I visited him in the spring of 2000, he was at work on a major painting, entitled “A Millennial Self-Portrait.” He said I should be doing something similar. He said, “We’re coming into our 50’s now — it’s time to do the big stuff!” He inspired me to return to a piece I had begun 20 years earlier as a cello-piano sonata, honoring my father’s courage as he battled cancer. Then, I had been too young to realize my hopes for that piece. But in the summer of 2000 I re-composed the work, adding a violin and new themes. The subject matter of this trio is the courage of those who are afraid, who almost lose their way, but persist despite their fears and finally prevail. Thus the title, “Eroica.”

