

Rick Sowash: Vistas

Trio #4 for violin, clarinet & piano, "Images of Mt. Emily" (2011) [21:06]

Nicholas Naegele, violin; Jeff Carwile, clarinet; Mark Tollefsen, piano

- [1] 4:21 I. Good Morning, Miss Emily - Maestoso, Allegro moderato
- [2] 4:03 II. Reflections - Moderato
- [3] 3:33 III. Here Comes Spring - Vivo
- [4] 2:31 IV. Silent Sentinel - Moderato
- [5] 6:36 V. Harvest Time: Prayer & Hymn - Maestoso, prayerfully, simply and gratefully

World Enough and Time for cello & piano (1989)

Yoonie Choi, cello; Phil Amalong, piano

- [6] 16:41

Four Places on the Appalachian Trail for violin, French horn, cello & piano (1992) [31:50]

Cheryl Trace, violin; Robert Garcia, French horn; Robert Clemens, cello; Greg Kostraba, piano

- [7] 9:14 I. Amicalola - Allegro
- [8] 5:50 II. Dragon's Tooth - Allegro energico
- [9] 7:21 III. Sage's Ravine - Larghetto
- [10] 9:23 IV. Katahdin - Molto allegro

Total Playing Time: 69:39

The Trio #4 was recorded at Watson Hall, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH.

World Enough and Time was recorded at Wyoming Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, OH.

The recording engineer for both works was John Burgess, Sound Foundry Productions.

Four Places on the Appalachian Trail was recorded at Brookwood Studio in Plymouth, MI.

The recording engineer was David Lau. www.brookwoodstudio.com.

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Rick Sowash, Composer

Since 1990, Rick Sowash (b. 1950) has lived by his wits. He has earned most of his living by weaving the history and folklore of his native Ohio into books which he himself writes, publishes and markets. Rick is also a filmmaker, having written, co-produced and starred in two documentaries: "Johnny Appleseed" and "Storytelling Know-how for Teachers, Preachers & Speech-ifiers." In earlier years, he supported his family in a variety of ways: as an elected public official, an arts administrator, a radio broadcaster, an innkeeper and a church choir director. But Rick's true calling is the composition of classical music. He publishes his own sheet music and produces CD recordings of his 400-plus compositions. A storyteller/speaker all along and an increasingly recognized composer, Rick has made thousands of appearances before audiences large and small. Rick's "Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra," was premiered in Cincinnati in April of 2008. It has been recorded on the Marquis Classics label by David Drosinos and the St. Petersburg Symphony under Vladimir Lande. Rick lives in Cincinnati with Jo, his wife of 40 years. They have two children: poet Shenandoah Sowash, 30, and trombonist Chapman Sowash, 27.

Other CDs featuring the Music of Rick Sowash:

A Portrait at 50, RSP-1: Five works for various chamber ensembles

Eroica, RSP-2: Four works for various chamber ensembles

Sanctuary at 3am, RSP-3: Five works for various chamber ensembles

Enchantment of April, RSP-4: Trios #1, 2 & 3 for clarinet, cello and piano

Pastorale, RSP-5: Six works for various chamber ensembles

Goddess of the Moon, RSP-6: Trios #4, 6 & 9 for clarinet, cello and piano

Winds of May, RSP-7: Trios #5, 7, 8 & 10 for clarinet, cello and piano

American Perennials, RSP-8: Five works for various chamber ensembles

Serenade, RSP-9: Three works for clarinet, flute and strings

A Christmas Gift, RSP-11: Five works for various chamber ensembles

Four Piano Trios, GSCD-254: featuring The Mirecourt Trio

Chamber Music with Clarinet, GSCD-285: The Mirecourt Trio & Craig Olzenak

Music for the Appalachian Trail, GSCD-236: includes Fantasia on "Shenandoah"

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

Rick Sowash
Vistas
Music Celebrating American Landscapes



Trio #4 for violin, clarinet and piano, "Images of Mt. Emily"

The Trio #4 for violin, clarinet and piano, "Images of Mt. Emily," was commissioned by the Trio da Camera of LaGrande, Oregon. The movements are inspired by five photographs of Mt. Emily, a prominent feature of the landscape near LaGrande, taken by photographer Carol Haddock, sister of the trio's pianist, Elizabeth Cooper.

The profile of Mt. Emily, as seen in these photos, is represented by the figure that opens the piece: a sustained high note followed by descending notes and then a little ascent. It is heard at the beginning of both the opening and final movements. Emily serenely watches the doings of the busy, short-lived humans who live in her shadow. She watches as they wish her good morning, observe her reflections in water, rejoice in the coming of spring, sorrow as their dead are buried and solemnly memorialized, pray and sing hymns of Thanksgiving with the coming of harvest.

World Enough and Time: Rhapsody for cello and orchestra (1989)

"An expression of feelings engendered by the sudden end of The Cold War. Joy and hope mingled with fear and skepticism" This piece was written in 1989, as my response to the end of the Cold War. Now we could pour our energies into betterment instead of armament. Feelings of relief and joy and tentative hopefulness are expressed in the piece, but also ominous, fearful feelings... Given human nature, can peace endure?

The piece was also inspired by my desire to fashion musical gestures worthy the extraordinary talents of cellist Terry King. His playing has brought to me and to many others a new sense of the marvels that can be achieved with a cello and a bow.

In the rhapsody, the cellist represents the individual human being — tender, passionate, noble — but just a single, faint and fragile voice, after all. The soloist does not bend the orchestra to its will. Rather, the soloist is swept along as occurrences of 'Great Events' are evoked by the orchestra.

The title comes from Andrew Marvel's pathetic, longing phrase, "Had we but world enough and time..." The work was given its world premiere on October 4, 1998 by cellist Terry King and the Monroe Symphony Orchestra (of Monroe, Louisiana) under the direction of Bruce Chamberlain. The work is heard here in my reduction for cello and piano.

Four Places on the Appalachian Trail for violin, French horn, cello and piano (1992)

The places on the Appalachian Trail depicted in this piece are presented in the order one would encounter them if hiking the A.T. hiking south to north; it's a musical thru-hike. Georgia's Amicalola Falls is where would-be thru-hikers begin, with hopes of hiking to Katahdin, away off in Maine. That's why the motive representing Katahdin is heard in the very opening bar of the first movement. Cascades of descending notes soon follow and then an ethereal, 'moonlight' section, in contrast to the sunlight-suffused music that precedes and follows it.

Dragon's Tooth is an outcropping of rock in Virginia. The music is meant to be ferociously energetic, like a really roused-up dragon!

Since it is in New England, on the very border of Connecticut and Massachusetts, Sage's Ravine seems like a place where sages might be encountered — New England sages like Emerson and Thoreau, as well as present-day sages, namely hikers. A sage reconciles Life's opposites: good and evil, joy and sorrow, the sacred and profane. Hiking the A.T. makes sages of some; thus, this movement is about wisdom and serenity.

I have not climbed Katahdin, only viewed it from the distance. For me, Katahdin remains a distant dream, an ideal never to be reached. But I also tried to present Katahdin as a very rough and rugged reality. The end of the Katahdin movement, has, I hope, the feeling of tremendous closure that must come to a thru-hiker looking out from the summit, knowing the goal of thru-hiking the A.T. has been achieved.

Biographical Sketches:

Cheryl Trace, violinist, earned a Master of Music in Violin Performance and a Bachelor of Music in Music Education at Butler University. She has been a member of the Toledo Symphony since 1991 and a founding member of Apollo's Fire (Cleveland Baroque Orchestra) playing baroque violin and viola. Cheryl also currently maintains a very active teaching studio as a faculty member of the Toledo Symphony School of Music, teaching Suzuki violin to students ages 3 to adult.

Robert Garcia, French hornist, holds a Master of Music in Horn Performance from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Baylor University. He came to his career as a college admissions and financial aid professional while pursuing doctoral studies in musicology at CCM. Robert performs throughout the Midwest as a member of *Quelque Chose*, a horn, violin and piano ensemble that recently made its debut recording.

Robert Clemens, cellist, is a tireless champion of the cello's expressivity and flexibility, Robert Clemens has performed opera, chamber music, and as a soloist with ensembles throughout the Midwest. He is a graduate of Bowling Green State University, and has been a member of the Toledo Symphony since 1986.

Greg Kostraba, pianist, is Program Director of WBAA Public Radio at Purdue University. A semifinalist at the Fourth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs, Greg has performed throughout the Midwest and been featured on NPR's Performance Today. He holds masters and doctoral degrees in piano performance from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Mark Tollefsen, pianist, debuted with the St. Louis Symphony at the age of fifteen, and has since fashioned a successful career as both a soloist and chamber musician. He has performed with members of the Cleveland Orchestra, the New World Symphony and the Cincinnati Symphony as well as with the Grammy Award-winning ensemble Eighth Blackbird. As an advocate of new music, he has performed nearly one hundred works by living composers and dozens of world or regional premieres. Visit his website, www.marktollefsen.com, for more information.

Nicholas Nagele, violinist, is a teaching assistant at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. He has played concertmaster for CCM's Philharmonia Orchestra, won runner-up in the school's violin competition, and performed in CCM's Chamber Players and other ensembles. Now engaged in doctoral studies, he hopes one day to work full time in a midwest United States orchestra.

Yoonie Choi, cellist, began playing the cello at the age of six in her native Seoul, South Korea. At thirteen, she commenced studies in America which took her to the Manhattan School of Music, the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and Kent State University. Yoonie now resides in Lexington, Kentucky after completing her recent doctoral degree in Cello Performance at the University of Kentucky. In addition to performing and teaching, she has founded a company that trades Kentucky Thoroughbred horses to South Korea.

Phil Amalong, pianist, enjoys a multifaceted career in music. As a pianist he performs as both chamber musician and soloist, and is a prolific recording artist and teacher. He has composed a large variety of commercial music, and works extensively in the field of music technology. Formerly the Chair of the Dept. of Music at the College of Mount St. Joseph, he is currently Senior Producer at Zenph Sound Innovations in Durham, NC.