GPFS Music Reviews



Library Feature: Sonatina

by Lennox Berkeley

English composer, Lennox Berkeley (1903-1989), studied in Paris with the distinguished Nadia Boulanger and Maurice Ravel, and spent time teaching composition at the Royal Academy of Music. His Sonatina was originally written for the recorder but indicates that it can also be played on the flute. The first movement main theme introduces us to a haunting lyrical melody that is juxtaposed to running and energetic sixteenth notes and articulated passages. All the while, the texture of the piano, its harmonic support and

melodic counterpoint to the flute, creates an energy that makes this movement captivating.

The second movement gives the flutist the opportunity to showcase its expressive nature through an arpeggiated melody which continues the haunting nature from the first movement main melody. At a tempo marking of 58 to the eighth note, longer phrases are better suited so that the smoothness and cantabile nature of the line is apparent - being also mindful of the speed and width of the vibrato so as to not add any unnecessary bumps to the line.

The third movement (Allegro moderato) presents a folk tune that is dance-like in nature, giving this movement great energy in both the flute and piano parts as they dance back and forth together in true collaboration. You will certainly smile at the end of this movement. At approximately 9 ¹/₂ minutes long, this piece would be a perfect opening or ending piece to a solo recital. I look forward to adding this captivating piece to my next program!

James Dutton gives a beautiful performance of this piece - Dutton Performance on YouTube

Written by GPFS Member Emily Stanek

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Library Feature - Soliloquios No. 1 for Solo Flute by Roque Cordero



Soliloquios No. 1 for Solo Flute by Panamanian composer, Roque Cordero, is a short, three movement piece written in 1975, and requires a variety of extended techniques such as flutter tonguing, key clicks and note bending. This piece also provides opportunities for the flutist to play with the timing or length of silence and length of notes at their freedom. There are many quick dynamic shifts from forte to piano and various quick intervallic jumps. For the flutist who has been hesitant to learn extended techniques and does not want to be overwhelmed, this is the piece for you! Check it out today from our library. This is a link to a performance of the piece.

A note about the composer Roque Cordero: He was born in Panama City in 1917 and died in Dayton, Ohio in 2008. His pieces have been performed and recorded throughout the world, receiving many international awards for his symphonies and various chamber works. Roque was a professor of composition at Indiana University and Illinois State University.

Written by GPFS Member Emily Stanek



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