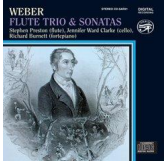


Weber - Flute Trio & Sonatas (1984)

Written by bluesever

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1. Trio for Flute, Cello and Piano, J. 259: I. Allegro moderato Stephen Preston, Jennifer Ward Clarke, Richard Burnett 8:43 2. Trio for Flute, Cello and Piano, J. 259: II. Scherzo: Allegro vivace Stephen Preston, Jennifer Ward Clarke, Richard Burnett 2:52 3. Trio for Flute, Cello and Piano, J. 259: III. Schafers Klage: Andante espressivo Stephen Preston, Jennifer Ward Clarke, Richard Burnett 4:20 4. Trio for Flute, Cello and Piano, J. 259: IV. Finale: Allegro Stephen Preston, Jennifer Ward Clarke, Richard Burnett 8:35 5. Sonata No. 4 in E Flat Major: I. Moderato Stephen Preston, Richard Burnett 3:49 6. Sonata No. 4 in E Flat Major: II. Rondo vivace Stephen Preston, Richard Burnett 2:05 7. Sonata No. 1 in F Major: I. Allegro Stephen Preston, Richard Burnett 3:48 8. Sonata No. 1 in F Major: II. Romanze: Larghetto Stephen Preston, Richard Burnett 1:55 9. Sonata No. 1 in F Major: III. Rondo: Amabile Stephen Preston, Richard Burnett 3:19 10. Sonata in D Major: I. Air russe: Allegretto moderato Stephen Preston, Richard Burnett 2:18 11. Sonata in D Major: II. Rondo: Presto Stephen Preston, Richard Burnett 2:40 12. Sonata No. 6 in C Major: I. Allegro con fuoco Stephen Preston, Richard Burnett 3:48 13. Sonata No. 6 in C Major: II. Largo Stephen Preston, Richard Burnett 1:10 14. Sonata No. 6 in C Major: III. Polacca Stephen Preston, Richard Burnett 3:52 Stephen Preston – flute Jennifer Ward Clarke – cello Richard Burnett – piano

The flute figures in nearly half of Weber's small catalog of chamber music and the most substantial of these items (though not quite as extended as his more popular clarinet quintet) is the Flute Trio with the flute replacing the violin in the usual trio configuration. It's unclear why Weber chose this instrumentation; he designed his clarinet and bassoon works for specific soloists, but no court flutist seems to have inspired this trio, which is dedicated to Philipp Jungh, Weber's friend and doctor. (Weber's flute sonatas are merely alternate versions of his violin sonatas, fairly easy pieces intended for domestic consumption.) The somber first movement (Allegro moderato) begins with long cello and flute lines over a throbbing piano accompaniment and is full of dramatic outbursts. The second theme abounds in more conventional, Classical-style twittering and this tension between dark Romanticism and bright Classicism drives the movement's development with Romanticism having the last word. The Scherzo begins with a rugged, offbeat figure reminiscent of the out-of-kilter scherzo from Beethoven's "Spring" Sonata, though lacking Beethoven's humor. This alternates with a flighty waltz melody,

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a strong contrast that allows Weber to leave out the scherzo's customary trio section. The third movement, Andante espressivo, bears the title "Schäfers Klage" or "Shepherd's Lament." The simple flute tune creeps along, seemingly unsure of itself, gradually elaborated by all three instruments except for a strange, chromatic interruption similar to the spot where Weber's Oberon Overture harmonically falls apart. The long finale (Allegro) is more conventional, a loose assemblage of chipper tunes, some lyrical and some of the sewing-machine variety. Weber gives the instruments free rein, allowing each to come to prominence through the movement's course and then recede into the general trio texture. ---Rovi

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