

An Archive of the musical compositions by Herb Bielawa

Composition:

Concerto for Organ, Strings, and Timpani

Date: 1961

Duration: 16:00

Recording: Sandra Soderlund and University of Southern California players conducted by the composer

Program Note:

The Organ Concerto was composed for Sandra Soderlund during my graduate studies in composition at the University of Southern California in 1961. It was premiered by Sandra Soderlund in 1962 on my Doctoral Composition concert. I was a student of Ingolf Dahl while composing this piece. Stylistically the work might be considered neo-Baroque since dynamics are terraced and interaction between organ and orchestra is, essentially, antiphonal. Rhythmically the piece “clicks” along (in sewing-machine fashion) like any genuine specimen from the 17th century. It is, furthermore, fiercely contrapuntal throughout, another Baroque attribute. It is in three uninterrupted movements; fast, slow, fast with introduction, pedal cadenza and short coda. The theme in the first movement in concerto grosso style is also the subject for the last movement fugue.