

An Archive of the musical compositions by Herb Bielawa

Composition: Sonatina for Clarinet and Piano

Allegro

Adagio

Presto

Date: 1962

Duration: 9:56

Recording: by Richard Pickard, clarinet; Herb Bielawa, piano

Program Note:

Sonatina was composed for my doctoral composition concert in 1962. In spite of its clarity and uncomplicated tonal progress, it is, in fact, a strict 12-tone serial piece. There are three different rows, one for each movement. The only dimensions affected by the series are melodic and harmonic. Dynamics, rhythm and tempi are free and subjectively controlled. Though it is lighthearted as a sonatina, it is the first work I used a twelve tone row strictly. The first sketches were fragments from assignments generated in a special class on twelve-tone composition taught at USC by Leonard Rosenman. The first movement is in sonata form with an abbreviated development (merely a retransition). The slow middle movement is in binary form and the final is sectional but with an overall ABA form.