String Trio II
Alan Schmitz

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String Trio

To the Concordia String Trio
Marcia Henry, violin
Leslie Perna, viola
Darry Dolezal, cello

By Alan Schmitz

1999

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A few comments about the String Trio
(for violin, viola and cello)

by Alan Schmitz

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This trio has three movements arranged in medium, slow, and fast
temps. The piece (all three movements) is built almost entirely from a
single theme:

Moderato $J = 92$

This theme is manipulated rhythmically to create different moods. In
some places the theme’s meter and rhythms are converted into a waltz,
while in others a quick 6/8 (duple) feel is used. Also, the theme is
presented in two different “keys,” which are a tri-tone apart (instead of
the tonic to dominant relationship associated with most tonal music).
Many of the ideas introduced in the first movement return in the other
two movements.

The third movement is longer and might bear a little explaining. It is
constructed like an old-fashioned combined form piece from the
Classical Era: the Rondo-Variation. All four “A” sections are in 6/8
meter (with the exception of a few bars of 4/4 in the finale). These
constitute the “variations.” The finale also uses the stretto technique
found in Bach’s fugues (another old-fashioned, but useful, technique).
Between the “A” sections are three “B” sections that consist of short
cadenzas (in 4/4), one for each of the trio members. In terms of “key”
and accompaniment, these sections are developments of the second
movement, while the “A” (variation) sections are derived, at least in
terms of “key,” from the first movement.
III

Allegro \( \cdot \) ca. 100

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{mf} & \quad \text{pizz.} \\
\text{mp} & \quad \text{pizz.} \\
\text{mp} & \quad \text{pizz.}
\end{align*}
\]
non sul tast. strum pizz.

non sul tast. pizz. mf

sul tast. arco

sul tast. mp arco

(pizz.) mp