

THREE LATVIAN FOLK SONGS

for piano, clarinet, and violin

ALEKS PILMANIS (2022)

DURATION: 5 minutes

PROGRAM NOTES:

My earliest memories of music are from my mother singing *Aijā žūžu, lāča bēni*, a Latvian lullaby. The melodies found within this piece have been with me since before I could have imagined composing my own music, or even picking up an instrument—they remain sources of comfort, familiarity, and excitement.

Ģērbies saule sudrabota (The Sun's Suitors), is a lively melody in 5/8, followed by ***Sidrabiņa lietņš lija*** (Silver Rain was Falling), a traditional winter solstice song. The final melody, ***Garaīs Dancis*** (The Long Dance), is a dance which involves dipping your partner on the large downbeats.

Three Latvian Folk Songs was composed at the Walden School's Creative Musicians Retreat, and premiered by members of the International Contemporary Ensemble.

This piece is dedicated to my grandmother, Biruta.

Es mīlu tevi, vecmāmiņ

Score

for Bea

THREE LATVIAN FOLK SONGS

ALEKS PILMANIS

Energetically ♩ = 120

Violin

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Piano

f

calmer...

p

pp

p

sfz

8^{va}

3

3

3

2 "Gērbies saule sudrabota"

13

mp

mf

3

19

percussively bow behind bridge

f

p

7

p

3

25

25

25

25

p *sfz* *f*

3

This system contains measures 25 through 28. It features three staves: a single treble staff at the top, a single treble staff in the middle, and a grand staff (treble and bass) at the bottom. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 25 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 26 includes a fortissimo (*sfz*) dynamic. Measure 27 features a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 28 ends with a triplet of eighth notes. The music includes various articulations such as accents and slurs.

29

29

29

29

p *p* *f*

3

This system contains measures 29 through 32. It features three staves: a single treble staff at the top, a single treble staff in the middle, and a grand staff (treble and bass) at the bottom. The key signature changes to one sharp (F#) in measure 31. Measure 29 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 30 includes a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 31 features a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 32 ends with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The music includes various articulations such as accents, slurs, and a triplet in measure 30.

4

33

First system of music, measures 33-38. The score consists of three staves: Treble, Treble, and Bass. The first Treble staff has a whole rest for measures 33-38, with a *pizz.* marking above measure 37 and a *mp* dynamic below measure 37. The second Treble staff has whole rests for measures 33-36, followed by eighth notes in measure 37 and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 38, with a *mp* dynamic below measure 37. The Bass staff features a series of chords: measure 33 has a *f* dynamic; measures 34-38 have a *mp* dynamic. A wavy line in measure 34 is labeled *etc.* A crescendo hairpin spans from measure 34 to measure 37.

39

Second system of music, measures 39-44. The score consists of three staves: Treble, Treble, and Bass. The first Treble staff has a melodic line with a *arco* marking above measure 41. The second Treble staff has a melodic line with accents (>) and wavy lines above measures 41, 42, and 43. The Bass staff features a series of chords: measures 39-44 have a *mp* dynamic. A crescendo hairpin spans from measure 39 to measure 43.

Slower ♩ = 85

5

45

rit. -----

First tempo (♩ = 120)

51

sfz

6

57

57

57

57

sfz

sfz

sfz

pp

♩=60

62 "Sidrabiņa līdīņš līja"

62

62

62

p

p

from afar

p

65

65

65

65

mf

freely, out of time

8^{va}

69

69

69

69

ff

8

Like a stately dance ♩=105

74

74

ff *etc.*

74

ff *etc.*

74

ff

80

80

80

86

86

86

91

91

91

This block contains three systems of musical notation. The first system (measures 74-79) features two staves with treble clefs and a 3/8 time signature. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and the second has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). Both staves begin with a forte (*ff*) dynamic and a 'etc.' marking. The second system (measures 80-85) continues the two-staff format with the same key signatures and time signature. The third system (measures 86-91) is a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. It begins with a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first two measures are marked with a forte (*ff*) dynamic. The time signature changes to 2/4 for the final three measures.

84

84

84

84

ff

ff

ff

86

86

86

86

fp

fp

sfz

p

10

89

89

89

6

Freely ♩ = 80

"Garais Dancis"

93

93

93

mf

sfz

sfz

f

sfz

sfz

sfz

8va

8va

99

sfz *mf*

99

99

a little faster, with more motion

sfz *p* *mf*

8va

103

sfz *mf*

103

103

107

sfz

107

p

107

8va