

W. Jay Sydeman

Duos for Two Violins
Volume 2
(c. 1977)

Adagio Bach II

The image shows a handwritten musical score for a two-part duet, identified as 'Duo no. 3, first page of manuscript'. The score is written on ten staves, with the first two staves for each instrument. The tempo is marked 'Adagio' and the composer is 'Bach II'. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The time signature is 2/4. The score features complex polyphonic textures with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. Performance markings include 'sub p', 'f', 'rit', 'b', and 'scat'. The right edge of the manuscript shows punch holes.

Duo no. 3, first page of manuscript

Volume 2 of the violin duos was written in 1977. The duos consist of “meditation” duos (I was still living in a Tibetan Buddhist temple in Hawaii) and homages to Bach, Bartók and Mahler as well as an assortment of others. They are stylistically more diverse rhythmically and tonally than the first volume, while not necessarily being technically more demanding.

– W. Jay Sydeman, February 2011

W. Jay Sydeman’s life mirrors the breadth and variety of his music. Born in New York in 1928 and educated at Manhattan’s Mannes School of Music, he quickly became one of the most sought-after and honored composers of his generation, receiving commissions from such prestigious groups as the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Tanglewood Music Center, and the Boston Symphony, which premiered his orchestral work in memory of John F. Kennedy in 1966. “Sydeman uses a whole battery of far out techniques,” wrote the *New York Times*, “but he has an uncanny ability to throw in the whole avant-garde machinery as if it were the simplest, most normal way of making music in the world ... More than many of his colleagues, he seems to know what will sound well, and he works for some remarkably attractive, pure textures. His sounds seem to grow from a physical sense of exactly what material is right.”

In 1970, after a heady period that included awards from the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Library of Congress, Sydeman left New York – and composition – to begin a journey of personal and artistic exploration.

“Around 1980,” he has written, “I returned to composition – at first a large number of choral works which reconnected me to the source of all music – the human voice. Out of this new lyric impulse have evolved all of my works since that time – more romantic, more accessible. I create music for the musician.”

– Howard Hersh,
Artistic Director of “Music Now”

Sydeman is part of a composers’ group in Nevada City annually producing the “Wet Ink Festival of New Music.” He now lives in Mendocino and hosts a bi-weekly program on KZYX, “The Mind of a Composer,” 10 am to noon on Mondays, introducing and commenting on contemporary music.

Duration:	1. Homage to Bach. Dance – circa 1:20	8. Homage to Mahler. Adagio -
	2. Homage to Bach. Dance – circa 1:30	Dance: Allegro – circa 4:15
	3. Homage to Bach. Adagio rubato – circa 4:00	9. Meditation. Adagio – circa 2:30
	4. Ländler. Melancholic Dance: Andante	10. Rubato – circa 1:30
	– circa 2:30	11. Happy Birthday Variation – circa 0:45
	5. Sarcastic Dance: Poco allegro – circa 1:20	12. Meditation. Flowing – circa 0:45
	6. Abandonment. Adagio rubato – circa 1:30	13. Meditation. Lento – circa 2:00
	7. Poco allegro – circa 1:20	14. Meditation. Adagio rubato – circa 2:15
		Total: circa 30:00

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Duos for Two Violins

Volume 2

W. Jay Sydeman
(c. 1977)

Homage to Bach

Dance ♩ = c. 50

1

mf *pizz.* *arco* *spicc.* *pizz.* *arco* *poco*

4

p sub. **A**

7

mf *mf*

10

1. 2.

Go To Measure 13

Fine

13

mp

pizz.

mp

solo arco

B

16

espr.

mf

19

rit.

D.C. al Fine
pizz.

Dance ♩ = c. 152

2

mf

mf

broad- *a tempo*

5

mp

mp

poco solo espr.

p sub.

poco

p sub.

10

mp

mp

*f*³

poco rit. *a tempo*

solo

mf

mp

15

mf

f

solo

mf

20

24 **C** *solo* *mf* *broad* *a tempo* *p sub.*

mf *p sub.*

29 *espr.* *p sub.* (no pause) *p sub.*

p sub.

34 *broaden* *solo* *f* **D** *molto allarg.* *a tempo* *dim.*

(p) *f* *dim.*

39 **E** *poco pesante, myserious* *p* *rit.* *poco* *slower* *pp* *accel.*

p *pp*

45 *spicc.* *a tempo* *pp* *pizz.* *pp*

pp *pizz.* *pp*

Homage to Bach

Adagio rubato ♩ = c. 66

3

mp tender, with great feeling*mp*

4

mp sub.

p sub.

7

10

broad

p sub.

p sub.

rit. (2nd time only) ——— Fine

(no tie on fine)

A

13

simple

mp

p

16

passionate

mf

(p sempre)

19

p tender

f broad

poco rit.---

a tempo

rit.---

f broad

22

a tempo

mp sub.

rit.---

tender

p sub.

25

a tempo

poco allarg.-

a tempo

V.S.

29

pp
solo (until da capo)

*mp **

poco a poco più appassionato

32

more broad

35

start building again

38

rit.-----

* from Rehearsal "B" to the da capo:
The second violin dominates in one huge line building ever
to climax – first violin follows the dynamics of the second violin.

C

40

a tempo

cresc.

cresc.

43

mf

f

46

dim.

rit.

dim.

49

a tempo

52

rit.

f

f

D.C. al Fine

Melancholic Dance: Andante ♩ = c. 80

4

mp

mp

6

mf

p

rit. *a tempo*

p sub.

cresc.

p sub.

cresc.

A

12

f espr.

f espr. lyrical

mp sub.

pp

cresc.-

cresc.-

18

mf cresc.

rit.

mf cresc.

B

23

f

a tempo

f

poco

poco

(senza trem.)

* This duo is also available as a string trio titled "Ländler" (with cello).

29 *f* *p*

broaden *rit.---* *a tempo* *solo* *poco rit.---*

34 *a tempo* *rit.---* *a tempo* *solo* *mysterious*

C

39 *tender* *p sub.* *f sub.* *solo* *passionate*

tender *p sub.* *f sub.* *solo*

45 *solo* **D**

51 *(f sempre)* *dim.* *rit.---*

(f sempre) *dim.*

Sarcastic Dance: Poco allegro $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 52$

5 *dry marcato* *mf* *ff*

7 *mf*

14 *ff* *mf* **A**

21 *p* *mf sub.* **B** *mf sub.*

28 *pp*

35 C

mp sub.

p

42

dim.

dim.

p

D

48

mf

ff sub.

ff sub.

mf

54 *dry marcato* E

mf

G.P.

f

f

61

ff

p

f

ff

p

f

Adagio rubato ♩ = c. 72

6

mp flowing

mp flowing

6

p sub.

p sub.

A solo (upper line)

rit. -----

a tempo

f

f

gliss.

11

espr.

f

fp

f

fp

16

B

ff

mp sub.

lunga

p

dim. & rit. -----

ff

(ff)

espr.

mf

p

dim. & rit. -----

21

This page is blank to facilitate page turns.

Poco allegro $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 104$

7

mp very staccato

mf

mp very staccato

mf

6

A

G.P.

13

18

B

détaché

23

cresc.

cresc.

30 *rit.* *f* *allarg.* *ff* *a tempo* *détaché* *mf* *spicc.* *ff* *détaché* *mf*

35 *ff* *détaché* *Poco meno mosso* *solo!* *3* *détaché stacc.* *at the frog* *3* *sul G* *3* *3* *3* *3*

40 *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

45 *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *Tempo I* *mp* *sub.* *solo* *mf* *sub.*

49 *D* *(sempre solo)*

55 *solo* *4 x and fade out* *solo*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is written for piano (left hand) and right hand (treble clef). It begins at measure 30 with a piano (f) dynamic and a ritardando (rit.) leading into an allargando (allarg.) section. The tempo returns to 'a tempo' with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. The right hand plays a melody with detached (détaché) notes, while the left hand provides harmonic support. A section marked 'Poco meno mosso' (Poco meno mosso) begins at measure 35, featuring a 'solo!' instruction and triplet figures. The right hand plays a melody with detached notes, and the left hand plays a bass line with triplets. A 'sul G' instruction is present. The tempo changes to 'Tempo I' at measure 45, with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The right hand plays a melody with detached notes, and the left hand plays a bass line. A 'solo' instruction is present. The score concludes with a '4 x and fade out' section at measure 55, featuring a 'solo' instruction.

Homage to Mahler

Adagio ♩ = c. 42

8 *mp*

4

A

7 *f* *accel.* *rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

3 3 *mp*

8 *rit.* *a tempo* *mp* *solo* *mf*

Poco più mosso ♩ = c. 104

11 *solo*

The musical score is written for two staves. The first system (measures 8-11) is marked 'Adagio' with a tempo of approximately 42 beats per minute. It begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The second system (measures 12-15) continues the 'Adagio' section, featuring a first ending bracketed and marked '1.' and a second ending marked '2.'. Dynamics include *f* (forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The third system (measures 16-19) is marked 'Poco più mosso' with a tempo of approximately 104 beats per minute. It begins with a 'solo' instruction. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and articulation marks.

13

accel.

solo

f *p* *f* *f*

mf *f* *p* *f* *mf* *f*

17

dim.

mf *f*

dim. *solo* *f*

B

21

p *f*

26

mp sub.

mp sub. (sempre solo)

C

31

p

p

D

37

espr.

42

E *solo*

pp *mp* *pp* *mp*

46

49

solo *allarg.*

52

F

molto rit. *a tempo*

(sempre solo)

55

solo

espr.

glassy

58

G *p poco vib.*

solo

f

mp

dim.

rit.-----

a tempo

p poco vib.

63

poch. vib.

H

rit.-----a tempo

sost. più vib.

sost.

69

74

pizz.

arco poch. vib. simple

mp

rit.-----

pizz.

arco

(p)

mp

♩ = c. 54

9

7

14

21

28

Rubato ♩ = c. 60

10

System 10: Two staves. Treble staff: *mp espr.* musing; veiled, distant. Bass staff: *mp*. Both staves end with *p sub.* and a 3/4 time signature change.

System 4: Two staves. Treble staff: *p sub. cresc.* with triplets. Bass staff: *p sub. cresc.* with triplets.

System 7: Two staves. Treble staff: *pp wispy* solo. Bass staff: *p* with triplets. A box labeled 'A' is above the treble staff.

System 9: Two staves. Treble staff: *p* with triplets, *dim.*, *pp*. Bass staff: *mp*, *dim.*, *p*.

System 12: Two staves. Treble staff: *f*, *dim.*, *p*, *mp cresc.*. Bass staff: *f*, *dim.*, *p*, *cresc.*.

V.S.

(sempre solo)

15

(cresc.)

allarg. $\frac{3}{3}$

(cresc.)

B

17

f mp
a tempo

f mp

19

cresc.

allarg.

cresc.

21

ff
a tempo

allarg.

C *mp*
a tempo

ff

p

24

26

D

p *mp* *pp*

28

p sub. cresc. *cresc.*

30

E

mp *dim.* *f* *dim.*

solo

33

p *pp*

F

36

pizz. *pizz.*

(sempre solo)

Happy Birthday Variation

11

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 116$
solo vib.

mf *p*

6

(sempre solo)

p

allarg.-----a tempo *allarg.-*

11

Poco più mosso $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 120$

mf *cresc.* *accel.* *allarg.* *f*

mp *cresc.*

15

$(\text{♩} = \text{c. } 100)$

ff *passionate* *rit.* *passionate*

19

Tempo I $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 116$

p sub. *rit. poco a poco*

Meditation

29

Flowing ♩ = c. 100 always as many notes as possible on one bow

12

solo *mp*

6

A

solo

11

B

16

C (♩=♩)

p sub.

p sub.

22

pizz.

The musical score is written for a two-staff instrument, likely a violin and viola. It begins with a tempo and performance instruction: 'Flowing ♩ = c. 100 always as many notes as possible on one bow'. The score is divided into five systems. The first system (measures 1-5) is marked '12' and 'mp', with a 'solo' instruction and a bowing mark (V). The second system (measures 6-10) is marked '6' and contains a section labeled 'A'. The third system (measures 11-15) is marked '11' and contains a section labeled 'B'. The fourth system (measures 16-21) is marked '16' and contains a section labeled 'C', which includes a repeat sign and a tempo change '(♩=♩)'. This system also features 'p sub.' markings. The fifth system (measures 22-25) is marked '22' and ends with a 'pizz.' (pizzicato) instruction. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 and back to 3/4.

Lento ♩ = c. 45

13

pp senza vib.
pizz.
mp always strictly in time

Measures 13-16: The right hand plays a series of half notes with fermatas, while the left hand plays a continuous eighth-note accompaniment. The tempo is Lento, approximately 45 beats per minute.

Measures 17-20: Continuation of the musical piece, featuring the same melodic and accompaniment patterns.

Measures 21-24: Continuation of the musical piece, featuring the same melodic and accompaniment patterns.

A
10
Measures 25-28: Continuation of the musical piece, featuring the same melodic and accompaniment patterns.

13

16

16

(sempre *pp*)

B

f *mf*

19

22

26

Adagio rubato $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 72$

14

sul tasto *p*

sul tasto *p*

5

A

senza vib. (senza sul tasto) *p*

vib.

vib.

senza vib. (senza sul tasto) *p*

10

pizz.

arco

15

B

arco sul tasto

pizz.

arco sul tasto

mf

p

mf

3 3 3 3

19

ord.

p

ord.

p

mf

mf

3 3 3

C

23

23 24 25 26

27

27 28 29 30 31

32

D sul tasto *p*

pizz. *pp* rit. a tempo

mp arco sul tasto *p*

32 33 34 35 36

37

E

37 38 39 40

41

rit. e dim. pizz. arco pizz.

41 42 43 44