

Three Dances

for viola and two marimbas (or four-hands marimba)

Duration: c. 10'15"

RUSSELL NADEL

(2002, rev. 2003)



Program Notes:

This commission provided me with a unique opportunity to bypass the traditional moods and styles the marimba and the viola each play in, and to combine their sounds for increased emotion and drama. I chose a dance suite as the form for this piece, both because the athleticism and motion needed to play each of the instruments reminds me of dancing and because the instruments together typically have a very bright, lively sound. The first movement (*Syrtos*) is modeled after the traditional Greek dance of the same name, and evokes the feeling of Greek music with its metrical changes and fast tempo; the second movement (*Tango*) is an homage to the sultry ensemble music of Astor Piazzolla; and the third movement (*Gigue*) is based on the Baroque dance of the same name, and incorporates the modern devices of modal harmonies and ostinato figures into the gigue's traditional 12/16 meter and high speed.

— *Russell Nadel*
November 2002

THREE DANCES

I. Syrtos

RUSSELL NADEL

In free time; molto adagio e rubato

poco vib. **sul C** **rit.** **A tempo**

Viola

pp *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

Marimbas I

Marimbas II

2 **sul G** **molto vib.** **sul D** **rit.** **A tempo** **poco vib.**

Vla. *p* *mf* *fp* *mf* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *pp*

I *pp* *fpp* *ppp*

II *pp* *fpp* *pp*

2

A

Allegro, in strict time (♩ = 160)

(norm. vib.)

3

Vla. *mf*

II *pp* *leggiero*

9

Vla. *f*

I *f* *p* *f*

II *mp*

B

15

Vla. *f*

I *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

II *mf* *f*

22 C

Vla. *fp* *mp cresc.*

I *mf* *f* *mf*

II *p* *f* *mf*

28

Vla. *f* *ff* *sfp*

I *f* *ff* *mf*

II *ff* *mf*

D

33

Vla. *mf* *molto secco* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

I *mf*

II *p* *mf* *f*

E

39

Vla. *mf* *ff*

I *mf marcato*

II *p* *sf* *mf marcato*

II. Tango

Sultry (♩ = 78)

I

p legato

II

pp sempre

6

mp

Vla.

10

p *mf* (*mf*)

I

pp

II

A

16

Vla. *tr*

B *passionato*

p \leftarrow *mf*

I *sf* *p* \leftarrow *mf* *pp*

II *p* \leftarrow *p* sempre

22

Vla. *mf*

I *mp* *pp* *sf*

II

28 **C**

Vla. *pp* *f* *mf* molto legato

I *mp*

II *p*

34 **D**

Più mosso, ♩ = 88

Vla. *sfp* *sf* *mp cantabile*

I *sf* *sf* *ppp* *molto* *ppp sub.*

II *sf* *p sempre*

41

Vla. **E**

I

II

mf *f* *mp*

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

f *p*

47

Vla. *mp* *lamentoso*

I

II

mp *lamentoso* *sfp* *mf* *sfp* *n*

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

p *f*

III. Gigue

Presto, joyfully (♩. = 144+)

Vla. *p staccato*

I *mf* *p* *f*

II *f* *mf*

5 **A**

Vla. *f*

I *mp* *f* *mp*

II *f* *mp* *f*

20 10 **B**

Vla. *f* *p* *sf*

I *fp stacc.*

II *f*

Vla. *f* *tr*

I

18 **C**

Vla. *f* *p* *f* *p*

I *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

II *f* *mf*

22 **D**

Vla. *mp*

I *p* *sf* l.v.

II *pp*

26 **E** **F**

Vla. *sf pp stacc.*

I *f* *p* *f* *mp*

II *mf mp* *f*

31

Vla.

I

II

G

sfz

f

f

p

fp stacc.

mp

f

mf

mp

36

Vla.

I

II

H

p

sf

f

p

pp