

Please note that not all pages are included. This is purposely done in order to protect our property and the work of our esteemed composers.

If you would like to see this work in its entirety, please order online or call us at 800-647-2117.

ROBERT WARD

BATH COUNTY RHAPSODY
for
String Quartet and Piano

*Commissioned by the people of Bath County for its 200th Anniversary
and dedicated to Luca and Arlene Di Cecco of the Garth Newel Music Center*

A one-movement musical history of Bath County with sub-sections depicting:

1. Mist-shrouded mountains and warm springs
2. Indian discovery of the healing waters
3. Coming of white settlers with their hopes and hymns
4. Agony of Civil War and lament for the slain
5. War's end and thanksgiving
6. Partyin', fiddlin' and dancin'
7. Peace again on the mist-shrouded mountain

SCORE

Catalogue No. 0002

VIREO PRESS

Sole Agent : E.C. Schirmer • Boston

Program Note

Though chamber music concerts are one of my favorite forms of recreation, I have often wished that the standard repertory for quartets and quintets was more diversified. Their literature contains an abundance of superb works in the usual three or four movement format of 1. Sonata-form, 2. A slow reflective movement, 3. A lively dance and finally, a jolly or triumphant finale. Almost entirely lacking, however, are the splendid overtures, colorful ballet suites, brilliant concerti or tone poems which enrich the orchestral repertory.

Until last April when Bath County, Virginia commissioned me to write a work celebrating its 200th Anniversary the above reflections on the chamber music repertory were but random thoughts. Now I had a chance to do something about it. Happily Luca Di Cecco who had contacted me about the commission was thinking along the same lines. In our first conversation I was somewhat surprised when he asked if my wife and I might visit Warm Springs, "just to breathe some of the mountain air and meet a few people and maybe get some inspiration for my work". Since I am never one to turn down an excursion to the mountains and to spend time with old friends such as Luca and Arlene, I accepted immediately.

The day of our visit turned out to be a perfect, sunny spring day, and we were exhilarated by the drive into the mountains. It was also fine to observe the developments at the Garth Newel Music Center, but the part of the day which was perhaps most stimulating was a meeting with Mr. Hugh Gwin whose relation of a concise history of Bath County set the wheels of my imagination spinning. We then did a short tour of The Homestead which is certainly the ShangriLa of America.

The next day as we drove home it became clear to me that Luca has a very shrewd perception of what stimulates the creative process for on the way the ideas for a Rhapsody based on principal events in the past of Bath County began to flow. It was to be a kind of musical chronicle.

The opening which is an evocation of the mountains and the health-giving waters wrote itself quickly. The thought of the pre-colonial period Indians brought to mind a scene from my light opera, LADY FROM COLORADO, which had been cut in a revision of the score after the premiere. My "Indian" music makes no claim to authenticity, but it is probably as authentic as Mozart's "Turkish" music or Verdi's music for the Egyptian Priests and Priestesses in AIDA.

In contemplating the Civil War section I remembered the grand old hymn "Kedron" from SOUTHERN HARMONY, the most popular hymnal in the South. There are four variations on the tune. The first two use the "lining out" technique so common to Appalachian hymn singing. The second pair are transposed to the major mode to evoke the feeling of thanksgiving at war's end. The remainder of the work is all derived from the opening "mountain" music as it might be whistled or "jazzed Up".

In conclusion I can but hope that my unconventional addition to the chamber music repertory will fall on sympathetic ears and that it may be a fitting musical celebration of this proud moment in the history of Bath County.

R. W.

Bath County Rhapsody

Robert Ward

Adagio (♩ = 66)

Violin I

1 muted *p*

Violin II

muted *p*

Viola

muted *p*

Cello

muted *p*

Piano

Adagio (♩ = 66)

pp *leggero*

5

mp

mp

mp

mp

p

9

p

cresc.

p

pizz.

mp

cresc.

cresc.

12

movendo

mf

mf

mf

arco

mp

mf

movendo

15

f

mf

18

accel. al - - - (♩ = 84)

remove mute

dim. remove mute

remove mute

p

mp en dehors

remove mute

dim. accel. al - - - (♩ = 84)

f

dim.

233

Musical score for measures 233-236. The score is written for four staves: two vocal staves (treble clef) and two piano staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked 'rit.' (ritardando). The music features a vocal melody with a long note in measure 234 and a piano accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

237

Musical score for measures 237-240. The score is written for four staves: two vocal staves (treble clef) and two piano staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked 'rit.' (ritardando). The music features a vocal melody with a long note in measure 237 and a piano accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The score concludes with a final chord in measure 240, marked 'ffp' (fortissimo piano) and '<' (crescendo).

242 a tempo

ff *mf* *mf* *mf* *ff*

cantando a tempo

246 *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.*

The musical score is written for a vocal and piano ensemble. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system (measures 242-245) is marked 'a tempo'. The vocal line (soprano and alto) starts with a *ff* dynamic and moves to *mf*. The piano accompaniment (treble and bass) also starts with *ff* and moves to *mf*. The second system (measures 246-249) is marked 'cresc.'. The vocal line starts with a *cantando* marking and a *mf* dynamic, then moves to *ff*. The piano accompaniment also starts with a *cresc.* marking and a *mf* dynamic, then moves to *ff*. The score is watermarked 'Copyrighted Material' and 'Review Only'.

250

Copyright is illegal only

254

poco a poco piu marcato *allarg.*

poco a poco piu marcato *allarg.*

Copyright is illegal only

414

Measures 414-416 of a musical score. The score is written for five staves: four single staves (treble, treble, alto, bass) and one grand staff (treble and bass). The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measure 414 features a melodic line in the first treble staff and a bass line in the bass staff. Measure 415 continues the melodic development. Measure 416 includes a dynamic marking of ff and a fermata over the final notes.

417

Measures 417-419 of a musical score. The score is written for five staves: four single staves (treble, treble, alto, bass) and one grand staff (treble and bass). The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measure 417 features a melodic line in the first treble staff and a bass line in the bass staff. Measure 418 includes a dynamic marking of f and a fermata over the final notes. Measure 419 includes a dynamic marking of f and a fermata over the final notes. The score concludes with a $rit.$ (ritardando) marking.

420

Allegro (♩ = ca.120)

pp

p

pp

pp

pp

mp

p

Allegro (♩ = ca.120)

424

mp

cresc.

428

mf *fz* *mp* *cresc.*

mf *fz*

mf *fz* *mp* *cresc.*

mf *fz* *f* *mp*

fz *p* *cresc.*

431

accel.

cresc. *accel.*

434

ff *strepitoso* *ff* *strepitoso* *ff* *strepitoso* *ff* *strepitoso*

439

ffz *ffz* *ffz* *ffz* *ffz*

Durham, N.C. July 1991