

# Capriccio for Stan & Ollie

for violin and piano, opus 11

allegro capriccioso (*Stan & Ollie*)  
tempo di marcia (*Bonnie Scotland*)  
serenade; andante (*Swiss Miss*)  
molto vivace (*The Cuckoo*)

## composed

between 16<sup>th</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> August 1996, revised in 2004

## duration

ca. 14 min.

## premiered

on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1997 at the Schouwburg in Tilburg (The Netherlands) by Marijn Simons (violin) & Jet Janssen (piano)

## published

by Donemus

## recorded

by Marijn Simons (violin) & Jet Janssen (piano) on Erasmus Project 226

## scoring

Violin, Piano

## Marijn Simons on *Capriccio for Stan & Ollie*:

When watching one of Laurel and Hardy movies, I usually split my sides laughing. The *Capriccio for Stan & Ollie* is a tribute as it were to these unsurpassed comedians.

I had wanted to dedicate a piece of music to them for some time, but that turned out to be not so simple, for how does one compose “funny music”?

The first movement, with the subtitle “Stan & Ollie”, very much characterises the two; the instruments combat more or less but at the same time they can’t do without one another. I leave it to the listener to decide which instrument depicts who.

As a fan of Laurel and Hardy you will probably remember the scene in “Bonnie Scotland” where Stan makes the soldiers march out of step with his pranks. The “tempo di marcia”, the second movement, is based on this scene and is therefore in 5/8 measure.

In the film "Swiss Miss" Ollie sings a lovely serenade for a pretty girl, clumsily accompanied by Stan on his euphonium. In the third movement, the piano -in a contrary fashion- plays this euphonium part.

Many of Laurel and Hardy films start and end with the cuckoo theme (Marvin Hatley). In the last movement I have written variations on three elements from this theme, leading to an enormous climax... only to end once more in a very simple finale.

I orchestrated opus 11 (1996) almost simultaneously as *Capriccio for Stan and Ollie, for nine players, opus 11<sup>a</sup>* (woodwind and percussion). On April 6th 1997 I performed the première of the violin/piano version in Tilburg. The world première of opus 11a was on March 16th 1997 in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

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