

Capriccio for Stan & Ollie

for violin and marimba, opus 11b

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

acknowledgement

Capriccio for Stan & Ollie, for violin and piano, opus 11 was composed between 16th March and 10th August 1996. Capriccio for Stan & Ollie, for violin and marimba, opus 11b was arranged by the composer in 2004 and revised in 2011.

duration

ca. 14 min.

premièred

on 9th June 2004 at the Nieuwe Kerk in The Hague (The Netherlands) by Marijn Simons (violin), Wim Vos & Murk Jiskoot (marimba)

published

by Donemus

scoring

Violin
Marimba; 5 octaves (2 players)

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 marimba -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 composed “Capriccio for Stan & Ollie”, for nine players, opus 11a, in 1996, almost simultaneously with the violin/piano version opus 11. 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. In 2004 I made a version for violin and marimba which I premiered in June of the same year.

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