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SVEN-DAVID SANDSTRÖM

SIX PIECES FOR PIANO TRIO AND ORCHESTRA (UA 2011, Trio con Brio Copenhagen)

Trio con Brio Copenhagen asked me a long time ago whether I would write a concerto for them. The fact that the musicians themselves wished the work made the whole thing extra interesting. Another thing was that there are not many concertos in this format. It also stimulated me. Other than that it is a quite complex situation the composer is in. Actually the trio itself is such a big chamber musical situation that it is already enough by itself. When the orchestra then is put on the top of the trio the whole thing becomes quite complicated and challenging.

From the beginning I had a very clear idea about that it was going to be a kind of picture-concerto I wanted to write. The thought was to insert a number of optical impressions into the music. In fact I wanted to title the concerto as Pictures or something similar, a kind of lyrical poesy. But I went away from it later. Anyway because of that reason there is an especially lyrical section in the concerto, in fact extremely lyrical. And very beautiful and romantic and sentimental. That, I think, will call quite some attention.

I tried to let the trio play much alone by themselves and let the orchestra play pretty little. It is my basic thought. Because it doesn't work to match a trio or a soloist with an orchestra. Often it becomes like putting individuals up against a collectivity. I don't want that. But I wanted especially the piano part to be up in front. Therefore I tried to give the soloists same importance in the concerto. But I varied it in some parts so that the three players alternately are in focus. Other parts they play together.

Stylistically I am very keen on the idea of modernism contra tradition. The polarity inspires me a lot. The triple concerto is a mixture of the whole thing. Among others with the powerful, percussive sections. But in the big picture the concerto is quite romantic and sentimental in expression. Apart from that it is deliberately quite short, about 20 minutes. At present I try to make my point in shortness. And even though one is not really allowed to say it I think a lot that it should be entertaining to listen to my music. One should look forward to the music, enjoy it and get positive thoughts.

Sven-David Sandström