

## More About SERENATA FOR STRINGS

In the spring of 1973, I gave my doctoral composition recital at Florida State University, which consisted of three chamber compositions of about ten minutes each. The first two were **Soliloquy and Rondo** (flute and piano) and **Delineations** (brass quintet).

This composition, in its original incarnation as an insanely difficult unaccompanied duo for violin and cello, was the third piece on the program.

Despite the excellent performance it was given at the recital, I always thought that **Serenata for Violin and Cello** would be better suited to a somewhat larger ensemble, where it could be played by more than just top-tier virtuoso soloists. I first thought about a string quartet or quintet, but when a contest for chamber orchestra compositions was announced a couple years later (with none other than Aaron Copland leading the panel of judges), I committed myself to transcribing the string duo into the chamber orchestra medium. While it didn't win or place, **Serenata for Chamber Orchestra** earned an honorable mention in the contest, which carried with it a performance by a scaled-down Fort Worth Symphony.

In 2018, a "call for scores" for string orchestra motivated me to once again call upon this music, and I rescored it for strings. This version wasn't as fortunate as the chamber orchestra version had been, and was not selected for performance. But I do not regret the work I put into it. That is because I really like this version, as it is closer to my original concept for violin and cello.

The YouTube score video link on the website is a very realistic VST performance. The audio demo is a commercial recording by the strings of the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra, in Brno, CZ. It is now available on the Ablaze Records label. See the Discography section of my website for more information.