

More About SONATINA FOR VIOLA AND PIANO

When I wrote my cycle of sonatinas for wind instruments and piano, I wasn't thinking about including strings, as I am not as familiar with the ins and outs of string playing and what is easy or hard for them. But when I had to produce an extended solo for violin and piano on short notice, I recycled **my Sonatina for Clarinet and Piano**, transposed up a step, so as to not produce an inferior product through haste.

Lately I've been thinking that more of those wind sonatinas can work perfectly well for instruments other than what they were originally conceived for, and they could get more mileage if I recycled some of them for strings. Since many great composers such as Bach and Vivaldi were prolific recyclers of their own instrumental concerti, and even Mozart did it at least once, it would appear that the practice has some sound precedents. So I decided if it was good enough for those masters, it certainly is good enough for me.

So here is the third in the new series, originally written for euphonium, but working very well transposed up a step for viola. As the title indicates, **Sonatina for Viola and Piano** closely follows traditional sonata form on a somewhat smaller scale, cast in 3 movements with a home key of B minor:

The *Allegro moderato* first movement is a sonata-allegro in B minor.

The *Andante* second movement is a theme and variations in Bb major.

The finale, *Vivace*, is an abridged sonata-rondo in the home key, B minor

Sonatina for Viola and Piano has been recorded for commercial release and is available on the albums **Bowed Colors** and **Trios & Sonatinas**. See the Discography page on my website for more information.