

More About SONATINA FOR CLARINET AND PIANO

By late summer 2013, it was time for a new sonatina in my ongoing series, and I chose the clarinet for two reasons: 1) The Bb clarinet is probably the most prominent woodwind in the concert band, and after five sonatinas for other wind instruments, I still hadn't gotten around to it. 2) I had spent much of the summer intensely revising my 1973 **Concerto for Clarinet and Chamber Orchestra**, so I was already in full-on solo clarinet mode, which made it a natural choice.

Here is the preface to the score:

As the title indicates, **Sonatina for Clarinet and Piano** closely follows traditional sonata form on a small scale, with a home key of G minor. The three movements are:

1. *Allegro agitato* - a short, but fairly strict sonata-allegro in G minor
2. *Andante tranquillo* - a lyrical chaconne in C major
3. *Allegro* - an abridged sonata-rondo in G minor

The ground melody of the chaconne is based on an inversion of the second subject of the first movement, and there are thematic links to the first movement in the rondo as well. Although this is not immediately obvious on casual listening, it provides the composition with a degree of thematic unity.

An interesting side-note: this one is unique in my series of wind sonatinas in that it is the only one where the first movement dies away, instead of ending with a bang!