

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF KEVIN F.J. HARRIS

VOL. I

ORCHESTRAL WORKS



 opus



Kevin F.J. Harris

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ORCHESTRAL WORKS

GARRITAN PERSONAL ORCHESTRA

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF KEVIN F.J. HARRIS

Kevin Francis Joseph Harris was born on March 19, 1965. Seven years later he was at a friend's house sitting at a piano, ignoring his friend's cries to come play. Instead he chose to play the piano and without a single lesson under his belt he began forming his own simple tunes. His friend's mother noticed the gift and later that day called Harris' mother telling her about what he had been doing, and urged his mother to enroll Harris in piano lessons. For the next four years he took lessons and performed in recitals. During his fourth year he approached his piano teacher about learning composition. His piano teacher said she couldn't teach him composition. That evening he composed a very short piece for piano and then played it for his teacher the next time they met. She was very impressed, and despite needing to make a few corrections to the notation, the piece was an amazing feat having had no training in composition. He asked her again if she would teach him composition, but again she declined. With that he got up, took his music, walked out her front door and slammed it shut. He walked home and made the decision to quit altogether and for fifteen years he neither played nor composed.

In 1991 he met a mathematician who was also an amateur composer. He offered to teach Harris the very basics of composition. From there he would spend time reading the scores of Mozart, Beethoven, and Haydn, soaking in as much as he could. In 1992 he composed his first compositions, and for the next seven years he would be extremely prolific. His style would eventually migrate away from Mozart and Haydn toward Beethoven and Schubert, adding in his own stylistic forms as well. Since that time Harris has composed over 80 compositions ranging from simple piano pieces to larger scale works for orchestra and chorus.

His compositions are often described as powerful and emotional, with a unique voice that captures the essence of his own experiences. Harris often speaks about the importance of following one's passion, even in the face of adversity or discouragement. His dedication to his craft and his unwavering commitment to his artistic vision have made him a true hero to all those who love his music.



Magic for a Nation

*An Overture, Op. 39
by John Adams, John Corigliano, and Leonard Bernstein*

Orchestra

Kevin Franz Josef Harris

*dedicated to the victims, families and the
... September 11, 2001*

Sinfonietta in C Major, WoO 19

1. *Allegro moderato* 4:00

Sinfonia in C Major, Op. 18

2. *Allegro moderato* 3:29

3. *Allegretto* 4:34

4. *Allegro spirito* 4:08

Sinfonia nel Tempi di Lutto, Op. 19

5. *Largo* 8:37

Orchestral Fantasy, Op. 32

6. *Andante-Allegro vivace* 8:46

Adagio for Strings in C Major, Op. 36a

7. *Adagio* 2:40

Sinfonietta in B-Flat Major, Op. 37 "Glorious Future"

8. *Adagio-Allegro spirito* 5:09

Symphonie Romanze in F Major, Op. 38

9. *Allegro moderato* 7:24

THE ORCHESTRAL WORKS

Sinfonietta in C Major, WoO 19

The Sinfonietta, without opus (WoO) 19 was composed in 1994 and was meant to be a full sinfonia, but Harris abandoned work on it to focus on composing a work for his mother, the String Quartet No. 1 in F Major. The piece is composed for strings, woodwinds, and harpsichord.

Sinfonia in C Major, Op.18

The Sinfonia in C Major's first movement started out life as an overture to an opera which Harris was working on called La Ricetta di Amore (The Recipe of Love). When he decided it wasn't worth the effort to compose an opera that would never be performed, he composed two additional movements and added them to the first movement and made the overture a sinfonia. He dedicated this piece to his great-aunt Kathryn, who was the only member of his family who was musically inclined, and who also composed church music. It was presented to her on her 95th birthday.

Sinfonia nel Tempo di Lutto, Op. 19

This is a solemn, and sorrowful, work, composed a mere five months after the Opus 18, but this time it was dedicated to the memory of his great-aunt who had passed away. This piece was composed in the back seat of a car as his family traveled to the funeral. The title of the piece translates to "Sinfonia in a time of mourning".

Orchestral Fantasy, Op. 32

This work started out life as the introduction to a symphony (heard in the first two minutes of this piece), but evolved into a fantasy for orchestra. The piece is scored for strings, french horns, woodwinds and chorus.

Adagio for Strings in C Major, Op. 36a

The Adagio for Strings was an adaptation from Harris' music a capella piece "My soul finds rest in God alone" opus 36. This piece along with the vocal piece are both dedicated to Harris' friend, Julian, after the death of his mother.

Sinfonietta in B-Flat Major, Op. 37 *"Glorious Future"*

This piece was originally a string sinfonia that was abandoned during Harris' earliest years of composing. Later he revisited this piece, added a slow introduction to it, and when he learned a friend was being promoted to a new position, in a different city, he dedicated the piece to him and named it "Glorious Future".

Symphonie Romanze in F Major, Op. 38

This is a romantic symphony which Harris composed for someone Harris had a romantic interest in, but sadly it never worked out. The piece is composed for strings and woodwinds, and was written toward the end of Harris' Mozart period, it is more in-line with late classical/early romantic styles.



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In loving memory: Harold Kaska (1926-2001)

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