

Sonata in Three Continents

by Martin Neill

Composed for Kate Robertson
on the occasion of her birthday on
22nd April 2021.

Commissioned by Families Brown,
Gough and Toogood.

All proceeds to Cancer Research UK.

Composer's Commentary

I - The Merry Maids of Woodcombe

This old Somerset folk tune has often been used during the Minehead Hobby Horse parade. As a young girl, Kate would have heard this tune whilst watching the parade. I have given the music a nostalgic flavour, so that the tune seems like a distant memory, forgotten for many years. By the end of the movement, the tune has become familiar again, and the movement ends with a complete rendition of the tune.

II - Cueca Res Miranda

The cueca is the national dance of Chile. Traditionally it tries to reenact the courting ritual of a rooster and a hen. The rooster displays an aggressive attitude while attempting to court the female, who is elusive and defensive. The dance often finishes with the man on one knee, with the woman placing her foot triumphantly on his raised knee. But who is Miranda? My lips are sealed...

III - South Australia

The tune of the sea shanty 'Bound for South Australia' is embedded within the powerful chords at the start of this final movement. These chords represent the strength and energy that the dedicatee applies to every challenge she faces. Also woven into this movement are echoes of the previous two. There is even a reference to a long-running Australian soap opera! But the movement ends back where it all started, with the Minehead Hobby Horse Theme.

Martin Neill, April 2021

Sonata in Three Continents

I - The Merry Maids of Woodcombe

Gently ♩ = 72

Martin Neill

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece begins in 2/4 time, changes to 3/4, then back to 2/4, and finally to 3/4. The right hand features a melodic line with a grace note (5) and a slur over measures 1-4. The left hand provides a simple accompaniment. A piano (*p*) dynamic marking is present at the start.

Con ped.

Musical notation for measures 5-9. The right hand continues the melodic line with a slur and a fermata over measure 9. The left hand accompaniment includes a crescendo (*cresc.*) and a fermata over measure 9. A pedaling instruction (*ped.*) with a slur is shown below the bass staff, covering measures 8-9.

Musical notation for measures 10-13. The right hand has a slur over measures 10-13. The left hand accompaniment includes a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking and a fermata over measure 13. A pedaling instruction (*ped.*) with a slur is shown below the bass staff, covering measures 10-13.

Musical notation for measures 14-17. The right hand has a slur over measures 14-17. The left hand accompaniment includes a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking and a fermata over measure 17. A pedaling instruction (*ped.*) with a slur is shown below the bass staff, covering measures 14-17.

3

18

Red. Red.

23

espress. *mp*

poco rit. *A tempo*

28

mf Red.

33

8va *ppp* Red. Red. Red.

(8)

39

rall.