

W. Jay Sydeman

Vocalise
“Christina”
for Flute and Piano
(1984)

Written originally for a lovely young woman with a lovelier voice, this is a *vocalise* transcribed for instruments. It is quite haunting and melancholic. The woman I wrote it for, Christina Chalmers, is a significant artist now in Santa Fe. We currently collaborate on artistic installations.

– W. Jay Sydeman, March 2011

W. Jay Sydeman's life mirrors the breadth and variety of his music. Born in New York in 1928 and educated at Manhattan's Mannes School of Music, he quickly became one of the most sought-after and honored composers of his generation, receiving commissions from such prestigious groups as the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Tanglewood Music Center, and the Boston Symphony, which premiered his orchestral work in memory of John F. Kennedy in 1966. "Sydeman uses a whole battery of far out techniques," wrote the *New York Times*, "but he has an uncanny ability to throw in the whole avant-garde machinery as if it were the simplest, most normal way of making music in the world ... More than many of his colleagues, he seems to know what will sound well, and he works for some remarkably attractive, pure textures. His sounds seem to grow from a physical sense of exactly what material is right."

In 1970, after a heady period that included awards from the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Library of Congress, Sydeman left New York – and composition – to begin a journey of personal and artistic exploration.

"Around 1980," he has written, "I returned to composition – at first a large number of choral works which reconnected me to the source of all music – the human voice. Out of this new lyric impulse have evolved all of my works since that time – more romantic, more accessible. I create music for the musician."

– Howard Hersh,
Artistic Director of "Music Now"

Sydeman is part of a composers' group in Nevada City annually producing the "Wet Ink Festival of New Music." He now lives in Mendocino and hosts a bi-weekly program on KZYX, "The Mind of a Composer," 10 am to noon on Mondays, introducing and commenting on contemporary music.

Duration: circa 2:00

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Vocalise "Christina"

for Flute and Piano

W. Jay Sydeman
(1984)

Very slow – rubato ♩ = c. 50

Flute

p always calm

Piano

p always legato

3

6

9

A

p sub.

poco rit.----- a tempo

12

15

18

Musical score for measures 18-20. The system consists of three staves: a single treble staff at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 18 features a half note B-flat in the treble and a half note B-flat in the bass, both marked *p sub.* with a slur. Measure 19 has a half note B-flat in the treble and a half note B-flat in the bass, also marked *p sub.* with a slur. Measure 20 has a half note B-flat in the treble and a half note B-flat in the bass, marked *p sub.* with a slur.

21

Musical score for measures 21-23. The system consists of three staves: a single treble staff at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 21 features a half note B-flat in the treble and a half note B-flat in the bass, both marked *p sub.* with a slur. Measure 22 has a half note B-flat in the treble and a half note B-flat in the bass, marked *p sub.* with a slur. Measure 23 has a half note B-flat in the treble and a half note B-flat in the bass, marked *p sub.* with a slur. The system concludes with a double bar line.

24

Musical score for measures 24-26. The system consists of three staves: a single treble staff at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass) below. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 24 features a half note B-flat in the treble and a half note B-flat in the bass, both marked *p sub.* with a slur. Measure 25 has a half note B-flat in the treble and a half note B-flat in the bass, marked *p sub.* with a slur. Measure 26 has a half note B-flat in the treble and a half note B-flat in the bass, marked *p sub.* with a slur. The system concludes with a double bar line.