

NICKY SOHN

GUITAR CONCERTO NO. 1

FOR GUITAR AND ORCHESTRA

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(2024)

Instrumentation

Flute 1, 2 (doubling piccolo)

Oboe 1, 2

Clarinet 1, 2

Bassoon 1, 2

Horn in F 1, 2

Trumpet in C 1, 2

Timpani

Guitar

Strings

Movements

I. Fast

II. Slow

III. Fast

Duration - ca. 20 minutes

Program note —

Guitar Concerto has been a dream project for me for years. Bokyung has been one of the most important people in my life for almost a decade. She has not only been a major supporter and advocate of my music but also the musician who introduced me to the beauty of the classical guitar. Guiding me through all of my guitar music, she has been the best collaborator a composer could ask for. When she enters the stage, it feels as if the whole world stops, and only Bokyung and her guitar exist. It is always an absolute joy and honor to have my music performed by her, and this guitar concerto would not be possible without her.

My focus on this work was singular: to make her shine as a soloist as much as I could. Bokyung has a sparkling, magical tone, and while her technique is flawless, her lyrical playing has the power to move any listener. Based on our past collaborations, I aimed to create something beautiful that also showcases her impressive caliber as one of today's leading guitarists.

The three movements of the concerto each explore different moods, tempi, and atmospheres, all designed to highlight her extraordinary talent. They share recognizable original melodic components that recycle throughout the piece, transforming into different textures and motifs. This process resembles our lives and friendships throughout the years, constantly evolving yet always retaining a core essence.

I would also like to thank the Albany Symphony and Maestro David Alan Miller for trusting both me and Bokyung to pursue our dream project. Their support and belief in our vision have made this concerto possible, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to bring this work to life with such a wonderful orchestra and conductor.

Guitar Concerto No. 1

I. Fast

Nicky Sohn

$\text{♩} = 72$

The score is arranged in systems for various instruments. The woodwinds (Flute 1 & 2/Piccolo, Oboe 1 & 2, Clarinet in Bb 1 & 2, Bassoon 1 & 2) and strings (Violin I & II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass) have rests for the first two measures. In the third measure, the woodwinds enter with a melodic line starting on a half note G#4, moving to A4 and Bb4, with dynamics *p* and *pp*. The strings enter in the fourth measure with a chordal texture, with dynamics *p*, *f*, and *pp*. The guitar part begins in the first measure with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting *p* and ending *f*. The timpani part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting *p* and ending *f*.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. in B \flat 1

Cl. in B \flat 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

F. Hn in F 1

F. Hn in F 2

Tpt in C 1

Tpt in C 2

Timp.

Gtr

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

p

p *pp*

p *pp*

p *pp*

p *pp*

p *pp*

p *pp*

p *pp*

p *pp*

p *pp*

p *pp*

p *pp*

