String Quartet No. 1 (2012-13 unfinished)

Daniel Manera

PROGRAMME NOTES

In 2012, Norwegian violinist Ole Böhn issued a call for scores for solo violin. At almost the same time I was commissioned to write a short piece for the Acacia quartet to perform at the ‘Seven stations in any order, a love letter to Sydney’ concert in 2013. Not wanting to write two independent short works, and in having the thought that another string quartet writing opportunity would materialise soon after, I decided to link the works. The violin solo I was to write for Ole was to be the second movement of a string quartet, and the piece I was writing for Acacia was to be the first. The original plan was, that through three independent compositional engagements, I would write my first string quartet, which would be comprised of three movements in total:

- 1st movement: (String Quartet No. 1 mvt i [2013]), a string quartet movement written with functional polystylistic techniques and featuring two musical organisations;

- 2nd movement: (Solo for Violin: formerly String Quartet No.1 mvt ii [2012]), a violin solo featuring a single allusive musical organisation;

- 3rd movement: (never written) a final string quartet movement that would use functional polystylistic techniques to unify the three musical organisations and instrumentations from the first two movements.

By mid-2013 I had lost interest in writing the third movement, and as by this time I was committed to writing two operette, the string quartet was never fully realised. However, after its premier in Sydney by Ole Böhn, the second movement violin solo became part of the repertoire of Dutch violinist Paul Medeiros in 2014, and was subsequently performed in Busink, Utrecht, Den Haag and twice in Amsterdam in that year alone, and is still performed by him to this day. So, for the sake of clarity, I have retitled the second movement: Solo for Violin (2012).
String Quartet No. 1

Mvt. I

Commissioned by Charles Davidson for his 65th birthday.

Duration: ca. 8'

Aggressive \( \frac{q}{=68} \) (\( \frac{q}{= \text{sempre.}} \))

D. P. Manera

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Duration: 8’ approx.

Solo for Violin
Formerly String Quartet No. 1 Mvt. II

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Non rit.