

BENNINGTON COLLEGE PRESENTS...

LOUIS CALABRO A MUSICAL PORTRAIT



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1999

8:00 P.M.

*This concert is made possible in part through the generous support of
Judith Rosenberg Hoffberger '54 and the Henry and Ruth Blaustein
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DEANE CARRIAGE BARN

Louis Calabro--Selected Works:

Statement for Orchestra (1951)

Trio for Violin, Cello, and piano (1952)

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra (1953)

Bodas de Sangre (1955) [clarinet, violin piano, cello, timpani, guitar]

Symphony No. 1 (1956)

Macabre Reflections (1956) [voice and piano] to poems by Howard Nemerov

Motet in 42 Parts (1957)

Ceremonial March (1958) [Brass and Percussion]

Symphony No. 3 (1962)

Dada Cantatadada, an Oratorio for Blues singer and Orchestra (1964)

String Quartet No. 2 (1968)

Piano Variations (1968)

Environments (1969) [for Brass Choir]

Latitude 15.09 N (1970) [Chorus and Orchestra]

Triple Concerto (1971) [3 celli and Orchestra]

Memoirs-(1973)[for bassoon and percussion]

Voyage [chorus and orchestra] (1975) words by Nicholas Delbanco

Rare Birds (1976) [solo flute and narrator]

Finneganations (1981) [piano solo]

The Paradisa Bird (1983) [orchestra and narrator]

Missa Brevis (1983) [chorus and string orchestra]

For George: December 23, 1983 (1983) [cello quartet]

Vermont Vignettes (1984) [voice and piano]

Isotrio (1983) [viola, cello, bass]

Isoquarto (1984) [viola, cello, bass and harp]

Music for Folks (1985) [cello quartet]

Trio for Flute, Clarinet and Viola, 13 Ways of Looking at a Tone Row (1985)

Isoquinto (1986) [woodwind quintet]

Metamorphosis for 12 flutes (1986)

Sonata Fantasia for Tuba and Piano (1987)

Primavera (1987) [chorus, children's chorus, piano solo]
text: Homer, translated into Italian

Antiphon Ritmico for eight cellos [1988]

In(ter)vention for piano right hand and 6 kettle drums (1990)

No! (1990) [Chorus and piano]

Sonata India (1990) [cello and piano]

Concert Piece for Piano Four Hands (1991)

Seven Deadly Modes (1991) Chorus and Piano

Hanon Sampler (1991) [piano and strings]

Composer, conductor, percussionist and teacher **Louis Calabro** was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1925. At the age of nine he was placed in an orphanage where he learned to play the drums and began to develop his interest in music. He ran away from the orphanage several times and had difficulties in both Elementary School and High School, which he quit before graduating. He then served in the army as a paratrooper in World War II, and also played drums in the army band. It was during his stint in the military that he began to compose and arrange, did some conducting, and read up on music theory. When he returned from the war he applied to the composition program at the Juilliard School armed with no fewer than eight original String Quartets. At Juilliard, from which he received both a certificate and a post-graduate certificate, he found a sympathetic mentor in the distinguished composer Vincent Persichetti.

Following a few years of working at various jobs in New York (which included being a building superintendent and a teacher at an accordion school) he received a Guggenheim Fellowship which allowed him to spend six months in Italy, where he began writing his Third Symphony. In Italy he met the composer Otto Luening, then a teacher at Bennington College, who recommended Calabro for a position there.

Louis Calabro taught at Bennington College from 1955 until only a few weeks before his death in October 1991. He also had a central place in the larger Bennington music community through the many works he wrote for local ensembles and through his role as founder and conductor of The Sage City Symphony, established in 1973. In addition to conducting he was an active performer as a percussionist, pursued a wide range of extra-musical interests, wrote an autobiography and countless song lyrics, and was the father of six children. As a composer he produced over 120 musical works, and his output covered almost the entire spectrum of choral and instrumental combinations, ranging in size from the large-scaled Oratorio "Voyage" for chorus, soloists and orchestra, or the Concerto for Three Cellos and Orchestra, to miniature teaching pieces for piano, violin and other instruments.

Among his many honors and prizes were three National Endowment grants, three Vermont Council on the Arts fellowships, two Guggenheim fellowships, and the Elizabeth Ditson Coolidge Award. In 1991 he received the Vermont Governor's Award for the Arts.