

# Capriccio for Stan & Ollie

for nine players, opus 11a

allegro capriccioso (*Stan & Ollie*)  
tempo di marcia (*Bonnie Scotland*)  
serenade; andante (*Swiss Miss*)  
molto vivace (*The Cuckoo*)

## acknowledgement

Capriccio for Stan & Ollie, for violin and piano, opus 11 was composed between 16<sup>th</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> August 1996. Capriccio for Stan & Ollie, for nine players, opus 11a was arranged by the composer in 1996 and revised in 2004.

## duration

ca. 14 min.

## premièred

on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1997 at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam (The Netherlands) by The Holland Windplayers & Jeroen Weierink (conductor)

## published

by Donemus

## recorded

by The Holland Windplayers & Jeroen Weierink (conductor) on Etcetera Records  
KTC 1219

## scoring

2 Oboes (2<sup>nd</sup> also Cor Anglais)  
Clarinet in Eb  
2 Clarinets in Bb  
2 Bassoons (2<sup>nd</sup> also Contrabassoon)

Percussion (2 players): Xylophone, Marimba (5 octaves)

## television production

by Opus Arte Mediaproductions

## Marijn Simons on *Capriccio for Stan & Ollie*:

When watching one of Laurel and Hardy movies, I usually split my sides laughing. The *Capriccio for Stan & Ollie* is a tribute as it were to these unsurpassed comedians.

I had wanted to dedicate a piece of music to them for some time, but that turned out to be not so simple, for how does one compose “funny music”?

The first movement, with the subtitle “Stan & Ollie” , very much characterises the two; the instruments combat more or less but at the same time they can’t do without one another. I leave it to the listener to decide which instrument depicts who.

As a fan of Laurel and Hardy you will probably remember the scene in “Bonnie Scotland” where Stan makes the soldiers march out of step with his pranks. The “tempo di marcia”, the second movement, is based on this scene and is therefore in 5/8 measure.

In the film “Swiss Miss” Ollie sings a lovely serenade for a pretty girl, clumsily accompanied by Stan on his euphonium. In the third movement, the bassoons -in a contrary fashion- play this euphonium part.

Many of Laurel and Hardy films start and end with the cuckoo theme (Marvin Hatley). In the last movement I have written variations on three elements from this theme, leading to an enormous climax... only to end once more in a very simple finale.

I composed *Capriccio for Stan & Ollie, for nine players, opus 11a*, in 1996, almost simultaneously with the violin/piano version opus 11. On April 6th 1997 I performed the première of the violin/piano version in Tilburg. The world première of opus 11a was on March 16th 1997 in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

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