

Aditya Hridayam for Oboe, Violin, and Piano

May 14—August 10, 2006 Duration: about 17' 20"

On March 31, 2006, there was a concert of five of my eleven sonatas for solo violin at Duke University. Joseph and Mary Kay Robinson were in attendance, and asked me to write something they could play together. After finishing the *Govinda Sonata* for flute and piano, I was delighted to comply with the request, and this trio is the result. The Robinsons, along with Thomas Warburton, premiered the trio on February 22, 2011 at Duke.

The *Aditya Hridayam* is a hymn in Valmiki's *Ramayana* associated with the Sun or Surya and was recited by the great sage Agastya to Rama on the battlefield before fighting with Ravana. This historic hymn starts at the beginning of the Battle with Ravana, when Lord Rama is fatigued and getting ready to fight.

I find the first line of the *Aditya Hridayam* very useful as a forgiveness mantra. The main theme of the second movement corresponds to this first line.

The tempo marking for the last movement, "Tierkoerperbeseitigungsgesetz", is German for "Animal Carcass Removal Law". Such a lovely language.

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