

Govinda Sonata

for Violin and Piano

early March—May 11, 2006

Duration: about 16 minutes for Eric Pritchard

In 2006 I was inspired to write a piece for flute and piano, as I had nothing like that in my list of compositions to date. I have been involved with devotion to Krishna (among many other spiritual paths) for decades and thought this would be a good vehicle for making music in the manner of bhakti yoga. I was in contact with two friends who are flutists, and originally devoted this flute sonata to them; however, they never performed the work.

Historically, there has been much interplay between flute and violin music, and here is no exception. I started making music with violinist Eric Pritchard in early 2006, and so I made a version for violin and piano for him to play.

About some of the terms used in the score; *Govinda* is another name of Krishna, which means literally “protector of cows”. *Bhagavata* means a devotee of Bhavavan, a name of God, as well as a tradition of devotion to Krishna. *Shivaratri* is an annual Hindu festival in reverence to Shiva.

The violin and piano edition was first performed at Duke University on March 1, 2008, by Eric Pritchard, violin, and Randall Love, piano. They recorded the sonata at Duke in October 2009.

Accidentals hold through the measure and not beyond, and do not refer to other octaves. Eric Pritchard edited the violin part. In 2022 I changed the format from legal-size to letter-size.

Bill Robinson

Publisher Parrish Press Garner, NC Third Edition June 2022

billrobinsonmusic.com