

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971) Three pieces for solo clarinet (1918)

These three pieces were written in Switzerland shortly after *The Soldier's Tale*, and share a dedication to Werner Reinhart. Reinhart used his inherited industrial wealth and his estate at Wintertur to support artists such as Stravinsky, Rilke, Hindemith, Honegger and Webern. Reinhart was also an able amateur clarinetist and Stravinsky's dedication reflects his gratitude for Reinhart's continuing support. The three movements have no titles, other than indicating a preference for Clarinet in A for the first two and in Bb for the last but have strictly intended metronome markings. Stravinsky exploits the fact that the piece is for a solo instrument to play fast and loose with the time signatures, changing them almost every bar in the first piece, which is marked "Sempre **p** e molto tranquillo". The second has no bar lines at all and a fast metronome mark shared with the last which returns to the changeable time signatures of the first and is "**f** from beginning to end".