Carmen Fantasy (1989) Georges Bizet/Pablo de Sarasate/Thomas Christian David for Violin, Clarinet, and Piano with Orchestra

Carmen Fantasy (1989) Georges Bizet/Pablo de Sarasate/Thomas Christian David for Violin and Clarinet with Orchestra

Carmen Fantasy (1993)
for Violin, Clarinet, and Piano with Wind Symphony

arr. John Madden

Carmen Fantasy (2003)

for Violin and Clarinet with Wind Symphony

arr. John Madden

Pablo de Sarasate (1844–1908) was a Spanish virtuoso violinist who wrote much violin music for himself. Like many nineteenth-century composers, he wrote fantasies on themes of his favorite operas. Choosing motifs from the popular Bizet opera *Carmen*, he wrote a *Fantasy on Carmen* for violin and orchestra which has become perhaps his most famous work.

At the request of Leon Gregorian and the Verdehr Trio, Thomas Christian David paraphrased Sarasate's work to create the *Carmen Fantasy* for clarinet, violin, piano, and orchestra. He took the same themes arranged by Sarasate and added his unique ideas and piquant harmonic touches to make it his own, just as Stravinsky did in the *Pulcinella Suite* using the music of Pergolesi. The work was also written for the duo of clarinet and violin with orchestra. In 1993, the trio version of *Carmen Fantasy* was arranged for performance with wind symphony by John Madden, Director of Bands at Michigan State University. The duo version was arranged for performance with wind symphony in 2003.

The world premiere of *Carmen Fantasy for Violin, Clarinet, and Piano with Orchestra* was on April 7, 1990 in Midland, Michigan with the Midland Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leon Gregorian.

The world premiere of *Carmen Fantasy for Violin and Clarinet with Orchestra* was on April 8, 2000 in Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton, Wisconsin with the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra conducted by Brian Groner.

The world premiere of *Carmen Fantasy for Violin, Clarinet, and Piano with Wind Symphony* was on February 14, 1993 at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan with the MSU Wind Symphony conducted by Kenneth Bloomquist.

The world premiere of *Carmen Fantasy for Violin and Clarinet with Wind Symphony* was on August 12, 2006 at ClarinetFest 2006, Grand Ballroom A, Omni Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia with the U.S. Army Field Band.

Thomas Christian David (1925–2006) was born in Wels, Austria, the son of composer Johann Nepomuk David. One of Austria's most prolific, distinguished, and frequently-played composers, he was also well known as a conductor. For many years, he was Professor of Composition at the *Hochschule für Music* in Vienna. He divided his time between his duties in Vienna and concert tours on which he played and conducted many of his own compositions. He received composition prizes from the City of Stuttgart, Paris Radio, the City of Vienna, and the Province of Upper Austria.

David had a long association with the Verdehr Trio which began when he was a guest professor at Michigan State University in 1977 and continued until his death in 2006. This close relationship resulted in three *Trios* (Crystal Records CD 944); a *Duo for Violin and Clarinet* (Leonarda Records LP 1122); a *Triple Concerto for Trio and Orchestra* (recorded with the the *Tonkünstler* Orchestra, Crystal

Records CD 745); *Schubertiade* (Crystal Records CD 742); and *Sinfonia Concertante*, a work with wind symphony, that is recorded along with the *Carmen Fantasy* on Crystal Records CD 749.