

COMPOSER'S NOTE

Although Symphony No. 3 is not a programmatic work as such, the music traces a journey that may be interpreted in many ways. The opening is veiled and brooding, and somewhat enigmatic. The texture gradually lightens until it reaches a section of child-like innocence. This passage is interrupted at its climax by a rhythmic motif introduced by maracas. The climax of this section cuts away – again, this time to an extensive slow movement featuring a series of solos spread through the orchestra.

At the end of a long, melismatic clarinet solo, rapid running gestures move inevitably to the *Presto* Finale. The Finale grinds to a halt at its apparent apex and a slow-moving Coda closes the work with a final burst of energy.

C.V.

Carl Vine was born in Perth, Western Australia in 1954. His early musical training finished with study at the University of Western Australia, and since then he has been Composer in Residence with the Sydney Dance Company, the London Contemporary Dance Theatre and the Australian Chamber Orchestra. In 1979 he co-founded the contemporary music ensemble Flederman, a group with which he was associated as conductor and pianist until its demise in 1989.

His exceptional gifts have earned him a firmly established reputation in Australian musical life. His catalogue includes some twenty works for dance, music for film and theatre, electronic music and numerous solo instrumental and chamber pieces. More recently, he has emerged as a composer of major orchestral works, with five Symphonies to his credit. His works are among the most widely performed in Australia, with many of them available on commercial recordings. His experience as a performer has taught him to write idiomatically, and his music is characterised by vibrance and wit.

Since Flederman's tours of the USA (1983) and Europe (1985) Carl Vine's music has reached audiences outside Australia. In the autumn of 1988 the Sydney Symphony Orchestra toured the United States with his Symphony No 2 (1987) and the same orchestra commissioned his Third Symphony (1990). Carl Vine has recently completed his Fifth Symphony (1994) for the percussion group Synergy and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. A sixth "Choral" Symphony is planned for performance in 1996.