

My Love Lives Down That Long Dirt Road

for Harpsichord

John Howell Morrison

Study Edition

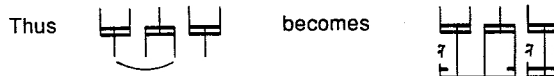
Performance edition available on request.

Performance Notes

The work is written for a Flemish double harpsichord with a buff stop on the lower (back) 8'. It is playable on any double harpsichord with a buff stop and a range of G to f^{''}. Indications in the score for upper 8' and lower 8' refer properly to upper and lower manuals. Except for those movements using the buff stop, follow the given directions for performance on upper or lower manuals, regardless of which manual plays the front or back 8' on the harpsichord in use. However, in those movements using the buff stop, one must play the music according to the placement of the buff on the harpsichord and may need to reverse the given indications for upper and lower manuals.

Throughout the piece, grace notes are to be performed before the beat, and not too quickly. Quicker grace notes are indicated by a sixteenth-note value.

Except in the third movement (Funky Pair II), slurs generally indicate overall legato or overholding. In the third movement, slurs apply to manuals separately, and indicate overholding *per hand*.



Program Note

My Love Lives Down That Long Dirt Road was composed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania during the first half of 1992 and premiered October 20, 1992 in Nashville, Tennessee. The emotional shape set forth in the successive movements follows the progression of the developing relationship between the composer and Vivian Sarah Montgomery, the harpsichordist for whom the work is written. The overall title refers to the fact that in the early months of their relationship, Ms. Montgomery lived on the outskirts of Ann Arbor, Michigan, reached from the composer's residence by way of a long dirt road. The movement bearing the same title uses a simple tune written during courtship and therefore carries the sentiment of that time. The "Funky Pair" movements explore the relation of independent manuals to each other and refer to the couple in question. Other movements reflect the difficulties of adjustment during marriage and a cyclical return of hope, joy, and humor.