

B.C.

This sonata for cello and violin was commissioned by Bill and Christina Willis, two Long Island musicians whom I feel lucky to call my friends. I introduce them not only to qualify the title (B-Bill, C-Christina), but because much of the musical material is a reflection on their relationship as husband and wife. Please note that only movements II and III will be played in tonight's performance.

The first movement (premiered at SUNY Potsdam in 2001) is an argument incited by the violin's outbursts. The cello makes several attempts toward complacency, which only spark further tumult in both instruments. The argumentative nature of the movement continues until a final discordant frenzy reduces both parties to a tense near-silence.

The second movement is a patient working-out of themes from movement I, namely that of a repeated "C". Both players work together calmly as new ideas are established and elaborated. Before any final resolution can be attained, a new argument (Movement III) ensues. Throughout this final bickering festival, the repeated "C" is recycled in many guises while a later hymn-like repose reveals the true nature of the relationship.