

ROBERT SIROTA

COMPOSER

PROGRAM NOTES

SONATA FOR CELLO AND PIANO

Program note by Norman Fischer:

The *Sonata for Cello and Piano* was written when Bobby and I were dealing with the deaths of our fathers. Of the four movements, the first is the most complex and rhetorical, its turgid opening pushing us immediately into a struggle, a wrestling with death. The scherzo, vintage Sirota, is sprightly. Most direct in expression and powerfully moving is the vulnerable slow movement, the heart of the work, which the composer has described a “evoking the struggle and surrender of the sick-room.” The last movement is a brief burst of joy.