



String Trio (2012)

For violin, viola and violoncello

Part for violoncello

Nigel Morgan

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About the music

In my work for solo piano *The White Light of Wonder* I developed a way of creating sequences of 4-part chords through algorithmic means. The resultant harmony was often surprising and unusual, chords being separate and independent objects rather than formed from a distinct tonality into any kind of hierarchy. Much when writing *To the Dark Unseen* for a string ensemble of 10 players later I experimented with a method of organising when and where chords could sound using a beat / space technique in which the composition of the chords on every beat changed. In this short String Trio I have brought the two devices together.

There are three distinct sections in this Trio played without a break. Both the first and the third have extensive links of ornamentation between chords. The second is a pulsating movement of iterations of chords. The harmonic sequence is identical in one and two, but in three the harmony is generated entirely from the starting chord of movements 1 and 2 to produce just eight chords that are then arranged in a series found in Franco Donatoni's String *Quartet The Heart's Eye* – 1 2 8 1 2 3 7 8 1 2 3 6 7 8 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 1 2 3 4 5 then subjected to a palindrome.

This String Trio is the first of a series of trio compositions to include Wind, Brass and Percussion ensembles. The music is dedicated to the violist and composer Simon Rowland-Jones.

String Trio

agilmente ♩ = 60

Vc.

11 **A**

21

32 **B**

44

55

67 **C**

80 **D**

91

102

mf *mf* *eco* *p* *f*

mf *sub. p*

mp *mp* *mf*

p *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

mf *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

mp *mf*

mp *mf* *mf* *mp*

f *p* *f* *mf*

f *mf* *f* *mp*

mf *mf* *attacca*

108 *animato* ♩ = 180

Vc

mf

114

E

120

p

mp

126

F

mp

132

138

G

sub. p

mf

144

150

H

156

161 **I**

f

167

V

174 **J**

V *f*

181 **K**

sub. p *mf*

187

mf

193 **L**

199 **M**

mp

205

211

attacca

215 *sostenuto e dolce* ♩ = 90 , **N**

Vc

p *tasto* *mp* (normale)

221 , **O**

mf *p* *tasto*

227 , **P**

pp *mf* (normale)

234 , **Q**

p *mp*

239 , **R**

mf *f* *p* *mp*

247 , **S**

mp *tasto* *f*

255 , **T**

pp *ppp* (pont.)

261 , **U**

p *tasto* *poco rit.*