



String Trio (2012)

For violin, viola and violoncello

Part for violin

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

Vn.

mf *mf* *p* *f*

9 *dim.* *mf* (dolce) *mf* *sub. p* **A**

20 *p* *pp* *mf*

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

40 **B** *mf* *eco* *mp*

49 *mf* *p* *mf* *mf* *mp* *f*

60 *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* **C**

73 *mp* *mp* *mp* *f*

84 *p* *mf* *mp* *mp* **D**

95 *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *attacca*

animato ♩ = 180

Vn

108 *mf*

113 *p*

119 *mp* *f*

124 *mp* *f*

130

136

142 *mf*

148

155

E

F

G

H

The musical score is for a Violin (Vn) part, spanning measures 108 to 155. It is written in 2/8 time and marked *animato* with a tempo of 180 beats per minute. The dynamics range from *mf* (mezzo-forte) to *p* (piano). The score includes several slurs and accents. Chord markers **E**, **F**, **G**, and **H** are placed above measures 113, 124, 142, and 148 respectively. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

161 **I**

f

166

171

177 **J** **K**

f *sub. p* *mf*

183

f

189 **L**

194

200 **M**

mp *mf*

207

213

mf *attacca*

215 *sostenuto e dolce* ♩ = 90

Vn

p *tasto*

N

mp

221

O

p *tasto*

mp

228

P

p

mf (normale)

234

Q

p

mp

240

R

mf

f

p

mp

247

S

f

mp *tasto*

253

T

mf

mp

pp

ppp (pont.)

261

U

p *tasto*

poco rit.

senza vibr.