

Collana for solo percussion and five instruments (1976) – 12 minutes (Novello)

Collana was commissioned by the percussionist Frank Epstein and his Boston ensemble, Collage; it is dedicated to them. The music has aspects of ritornello form, with three main forward-moving concerted sections. The last of these reaches a conclusive down beat, leaving the percussion and bass to create an unclosing cadence in its resonance.

*Collana*, the Italian for necklace, can also mean 'a collection of favourite objects'. Beginning to compose the piece, I imagined collecting shells on a beach; by the time I had completed the music, the image of the beach had grown much stronger than the collection. It can be misleading to speak of the images behind an 'abstract' piece, but risking this, I should like the music to conjure up a broad expanse of strand on which is played out the endless ebb and flow of the tides.