

AMORES: five songs without words, for horn and string ensemble
Nicola LeFanu

Amores was composed in August 2003. It was specially written for Richard Watkins and the Goldberg Ensemble, who commissioned it.

There are five movements, each lasting three or four minutes. As the title suggests, they are predominantly lyrical.

In the opening and closing movements, the strings create a spacious resonance in which the horn can sing. The second movement is a presto *moto perpetuo*; it is in ternary form, with a wayward, questing middle section coloured by quarter tones. The central movement is a nocturne developed from a love song in my chamber work *Mira Clar Tenebras*: the full moon shines on two people who, though separated by distance, are united by their love. The fourth movement, a cadenza for horn alone, lead directly into the fifth.

Amores is dedicated to my son Peter on his twenty-first birthday.

NL