

TRIO 1 (1980) for flute/piccolo, 'cello and percussion.

The starting point for this trio was some of the sacred dance which I saw at the 1979 Durham Festival of Oriental Music and Dance. In particular I was struck by how dancers could pass from calm to activity, from stillness to frenzy, without transition. For many, as for musicians, dance was an act of meditation.

The melodies and textures of the trio grow from a number of expanding gestures. There is a floating middle Eb which acts as both a taking-off point and as a centre of repose; there are dances for piccolo and tom-tom and duets between flute and cello. There is a refrain of bell sounds (gongs and cymbals) which acts as punctuation.

In writing the Trio I enjoyed playing with different kinds of refrain, exploring the way they could weave in and out of phase with each other. Towards the end, the climax of the music for the flute and cello, when their melody is at its most intense, comes before that of the percussion, whose wild drumming arrives at its peak when the others have already subsided, returning us to the serenity of the opening.

My trio was written in autumn 1980, for the ensemble Lontano.

Nicola LeFanu