

Duo for Violoncello and Piano (2018)

I: Vivace

II: Andante

II: Allegro Barbaro

This work was written for Beth and Susanne, as part of an ongoing collaboration with LE that I have been lucky to be part of. This work is the third in a group of three works commissioned by LE: Trio no. 2 for Violin Cello and Piano, STELCO (for piano and percussion) and this new work. In certain ways, my compositional preoccupations are similar in all three works. Over the last decade, I have been less interested in the exploration of instrumental colour (as exhibited in *Zwei Lieder nach Rilke*), and more in clarity of counterpoint and structure. As well, architecture based on harmony rather sonority (both on a small and large scale) is a fundamental principle in these works. I attribute this to my ongoing interest in Estonian folk music, as well as the music of Bela Bartok and Galina Ustvolskaya. But, that being true, the act of performance figures significantly into the design and inspiration for this work. For me, chamber music is one of the most intimate and profound artistic forums. Where else can you find out so much about someone (the performer) in so short a time? The rich history of music for cello and piano, the level of skill and artistry of Beth and Susanne, and the respect I have for the tradition and legacy of classical musicians was always present during the conception of this work. Duo for Violoncello and Piano was written for Beth Root-Sandvoss and Susanne Ruberg-Gordon, with the financial assistance of the Canada Council's 'Concept to Realisation' grant.

O. Daniel