

Concerto for Cello and Wind Soloists

Programme note for première, 3rd February 2016

This work, written in 2015 for cello and wind soloists, is in three movements.

I: Allegro molto moderato

My aim in this movement, above all else, is to allow the instruments to sing – to soar into the light of the sky or to plummet to the depths. The cellist is helped in this quest by the accompaniment of wind instruments other than the principal ones – darker sounding instruments, sometimes, such as cor anglais and bass clarinet - and the use of instruments tuned differently which together enable the ensemble to create unusual microtonal harmonies.

II: Presto e preciso

This scherzo, and the title of the Concerto, was inspired by the different qualities of light and colour seen during the total eclipse of the sun on 20th March 2015. Harmonies and textures create a musical parallel to the varying intensities and colours of the phenomenon.

III: Ciacona

Shortly after meeting John Storgårds in Scotland in 2006, I had a dream in which Mr Storgårds asked me to write music “like the return of the light after the darkness”. In the dream he gave me a chord to use in the music. Here, nearly ten years later, is that music!