

MUSIC FOR TRUMPET (2000)

Lyricism and reflection inform these two movements for solo trumpet. They are studies in lyricism and lyric form. Each of these movements employs refrains in different ways. The melody of the first movement, "differing rivers," returns time and again to the same two-note refrain via the same series of pitches. But each of the paths through that series begins on a different pitch within it and each path is different rhythmically. The verse-refrain pattern informs the second movement as well, but the verses and refrains share materials and transform one another throughout the piece. One may hear segments of the opening phrase recur in lower registers, in different rhythms, louder or softer. The new version of the segment may in turn be combined with a different segment, yielding new materials which recur in different guises later.

Another aspect of lyricism is explored in this composition; the quality of the lines and of the music in general are intended to suggest a certain ease, perhaps a certain intimacy, a personal quality. In the case of the second movement, "sky diapason," this apparent ease and gentility belie the vast range over which the trumpet must stretch the phrases, a very difficult technical feat. Almost every phrase explores either the high extreme of the range or the low (and occasionally both), but demands a dignified, stately quality at all times.