

## Concertino for Chamber Orchestra

*Concertino for Chamber orchestra* was written for Sharon Choa and Chamber Orchestra Anglia, who commissioned it. It was composed for their 'Music and Genetics' concert at the John Innes Centre, University of East Anglia, June 24th 2005.

Some pieces are prefaced by introductions and end conclusively. Others begin as if already in motion, and their end is not a closing off but an opening out. My Concertino is of the latter kind. It lasts about eight minutes. Its gradually unfolding and proliferating material is articulated by a continually transforming refrain, heard in skeletal form at the very outset, on wind and brass .

Concertante melodies in wind and brass follow, giving linear expression to the harmonies suggested by the strings. The music gradually accelerates to a central focus, *forte*, culminating in the refrain heard in the brass and echoed fleetingly by wind and *col legno* strings.

Now the melodic lines pass to the strings. On their own, moving in gentle heterophony, the strings lead in the last third of the piece. Once again the music grows gradually stronger, increasing its range, tempo and density of texture. The woodwind create a jubilant coda.

Before beginning to compose the Concertino, I spent some time learning more about genetics through conversation and reading, an experience I found enjoyable and stimulating. I leave it to the listener to discover how this may have borne fruit in the music; composition is a mysterious business!

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