

Gemini Quartet

Gemini Quartet for clarinet, violin, cello and piano, is a short work lasting about ten minutes. Although it plays continuously, it is a collection of tiny pieces; some lasting a minute or so, others just a few seconds. At first these contrasting characters and fragments appear unrelated, but gradually they grow longer and reveal their kinship. Overall, the music unfolds into a spiralling shape.

I was asked to write an 'opening' piece, and the image in my mind became one of opening doors. I thought of the many kinds of greetings we offer; I thought too of those people, dispossessed, for whom there may be no welcoming open door. Optimistically, the conclusion of my piece suggests a door opening to a safe haven.

Gemini Quartet was composed in summer 2022 for my friends in Gemini, and is dedicated to Ian Mitchell, the ensemble's director.

Nicola LeFanu