

Duo for two violins [2019]

Program Notes

This piece explores the emergence and convergence of musical identities and characters. The violins have a distinct relationship, whether they are blending into one sound, separating into separate lines, or fully independent. Their roles are quickly traded between themselves, to create spatial effects. The transitions from homorhythmic textures to heterophony express movement from a singular sound identity to independent identities.

The piece is also tightly controlled in its use of pitch, beginning with a single pitch, and gradually expanding from this starting point. This combined with timbral effects attempts to blur the boundary between silence and sound, and masks the beginning and ending segments of the piece. This formal outline of pitch exists in dialogue with the aforementioned musical characters that comprise the duo.

In creating melodic material as a backdrop for these techniques, the piece resists an anonymous international style and instead freely reflects the cultural heritage of the composer. This allows for an additional layer of transforming musical identity, as non-western aesthetics are decontextualized, fragmented, and collaged.