Programme note

**Chamber Concerto (1991-92)**

**Douglas Finch**

*Chamber Concerto* was first performed by Douglas Finch, piano, Owen Underhill, conductor and faculty and students at the School of Music, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, November 19, 1992. The programme was broadcast on CBC Radio.

The piece is a set of eight variations with an extended coda. There are two contrasting elements to the ‘theme’: a terse, ritualistic declamatory section followed by a more lyrical, lamenting section. This melodic material was ‘borrowed’ from an earlier piano piece, *Lyric*. The piano part is very challenging and complex, and the other instruments are sometimes used in unusual ways, for instance exploiting the very low pedal notes of the trumpet and horn, the latter becoming a kind of fog horn in the climactic 7th Variation. This seascape element came from listening to fog horns late at night at UBC in Vancouver, where I composed much of this piece. There is a long lament for strings alone in Variation 8, which was transcribed and extended a decade later as *Landscape V (...brouillards)*.

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