Programme note

**Four Pieces (August 2004)**

**by Douglas Finch**

1 Invention

2 Intermezzo ('Claire de Lune')

3 Gamelan

4 Serenade

*Four Pieces (August 2004)* are brief but condensed explorations of particular affects or impressions. These starting points are hinted at in the titles. The *Invention* pays some tribute to Bach's two-part contrapuntal pieces of the same name, but is also about the 'invention' of new shades of tonal and structural meaning within the piano's seemingly limitless compass. The *Intermezzo ('Claire de Lune')* uses interlocking thirds in a way that evokes something of the enchanted atmosphere of Debussy's famous piece. *Gamelan* is an exercise both in written-out trills and mirror-like phrasing. Although it doesn't use any overt references, the clangorous and ritualistic atmosphere is reminiscent of Gamelan music. The *Serenade* is the most intimate and lyrical of the pieces. With no regular meter, the strummed guitar-like accompaniment gives the feeling of a spontaneous love song or lament.

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