Programme note

**Nocturnes (Five Pieces for Piano) (1981)**

**Douglas Finch**

1 Very slow; radiantly and mysteriously

2 Quasi minuetto. Moderately and delicately

3 Alla marcia

4 Cold, distant

5 Very freely and gently

The piece *Nocturnes* began as a set of variations, but they gradually evolved into separate pieces. They are still meant to be heard continuously. Although there are serial techniques involved (no. 3 is a strict 12-tone canon à la Schoenberg Minuet from op. 25), the whole piece centres around the tonality of A major. It is also based mainly on one 'Mystical' motive consisting of languidly rising and falling thirds. This motive is presented with wide spacings in the first *Nocturne* and as a kind of hymn-like ostinato in the last *Nocturne* (an aftermath to the violence of no. 4).

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