Programme note

**The Fall – Fantasy on Six Chords (2020)**

**Douglas Finch**

***The Fall – Fantasy of Six Chords*** was written at the invitation of pianist Gabriele Baldocci for a recital at Madrid National Auditorium, 10 December 2020.

The piece is based on musical material from my opera Who Cares? – a project undertaken in collaboration with University of Nottingham, producer Justine Schneider and librettist Cindy Oswin, based on ethnographic research into the care of people with dementia. In the chaotic scene where this music is featured, a young carer, Katie, arrives to find one of her elderly clients, Harry, fallen on the floor unable to get up, while his wife, Joyce, irascible and confused, causes further problems.

Two important themes in the opera are memory and time, and this is reflected in the use of various references and refrains that weave in and out of the eight scenes. I’ve added a new reference at the end of this piano piece which doesn’t appear in the opera – a ghostly appearance of the theme from the *Lento assai* movement of Beethoven’s String Quartet op. 135.

The piece is also an exploration of six chords, with myriad different voicings and transpositions.

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