Programme note

**Three Chorales (2013)**

**by Douglas Finch**

The idea for these pieces first came from listening to Caesar Franck’s Chorales for Organ. After the first was finished and premiered by myself at the Westben Festival in Ontario, Canada in July 2003, I began two more Chorales, but then somehow lost the unfinished manuscript. These pages finally re-surfaced several years later, and were only finished by the autumn of 2013, helped along by the prospect of a CD recording by Aleksander Szram in the summer of 2014. The melodic shapes and phrasing of these pieces allude to the Lutheran tradition of contrapuntal chorale-writing, as practised by Buxtehude and J.S. Bach, though no specific hymn tunes are used. They are very taut and sustained, and their realisation relies heavily on the particular overtones and sound colours that can be achieved in the different registers of the piano using sustaining pedal. The third piece is more free and extended, merging the Germanic ‘chorale’ with more Eastern colours.

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