

Verinnerung for piano trio (2001/02)

This work was commissioned by the Mondrian Ensemble and most appropriately it embodies the composer's response to Piet Mondrian's famous picture *Composition with Red, Yellow and Blue*. In this picture Mondrian develops a style of classical simplicity in which vertical and horizontal bands of black-framed rectangular areas of vivid primary colours were interspersed with white or grey; a style that rejects all human associations but nonetheless seeks to evoke an intellectual or sensual response in the observer.

The work opens in an extraordinary manner, as if with the gathering dusk we are being transformed into an alien world. The composer describes his work as an attempt to follow through in music the associations this picture creates in our memory. The opening is a kind of shuddering at the limit of audibility that brings us to that strange transformational place that hovers somewhere between the picture itself and our experience of the picture. This experiential process undergoes a series of variations that slowly increase the tension. The picture itself is dominated by a square of brilliant red and eventually the brutality of that burst of colour intrudes on the music in a gratifyingly savage manner. After this climax the pianist imposes a ritualised calm and the music once again returns through the limits of audibility to silence.