

Programme Notes

dissolve was written in 2002 for the Composers' Orchestra, or CCMW, at the Festival of the Sound. In this work, the instruments have an individual role at the beginning but gradually come together throughout the piece. In the first major section, the piano has an ostinato in the left hand that gradually breaks apart, or dissolves, after the harp has interjected above. In a later contrasting section, the roles are reversed as the harp has the repeated pattern while the piano interjects above. This harp pattern, accompanied by the glockenspiel, consequently begins to break apart after the piano entry. The instruments meet with unconventional sounds: the harp tuning key glissandi are answered by sounds from inside the piano. From here, all of the instruments finally come together to play material of the same shape and move towards the climax of the piece. After reaching the high point, the work gradually relaxes while the instruments become progressively unified as they move through various patterns. The final pattern is the most unified of all, as the instruments rely on each other to contribute elements of the pattern in order to create a whole.

This piece won the first annual Karen Kieser Prize in Canadian music, in 2003. The recording from this concert was then submitted by the CBC to the under 30 category at the International Rostrum of Composers competition in 2004, where it won top prize. The piece was then further awarded the Canadian Music Centre Prairie Region Award in 2005.