

The Pull (2005)

I.

II.

The Pull was commissioned for the Turini Schulte Bloemendal Trio by the Southern Ontario Chamber Music Institute with the assistance of the Laidlaw Foundation. I had heard in this trio of players, a particular ability to bring life to music and so, I took the opportunity to express serious human emotion here. The feeling of the piece came from reflection on different life stages of people involved. This ranges the trio members, down to the youth of students at the music institute. Another soul whose existence factored into the piece is a gentleman who, despite having all trappings of perceived success, had not found his personal solutions for happiness and remained sad and lonely. The idea begins as naïve young souls flow and strive towards the next point in their developmental lives while older generations spend more energy in reflection. I considered how it is the human condition that people of all ages long for the next answer to their difficulties and their existence. The search for those actual answers leaves many in the dark. When a person achieves a projected solution, new things might be revealed but the matter is forgotten as the person's needs shift to the next perceived solution. Answers remain illusory. The first movement alternates between aggressive, hopeful, driving sections and reflective sections laced with regret. A concrete destination is not reached but instead leads the first movement to an isolated and detached end. The second movement begins as a lament of loss with the understanding that success is an illusive perception, not a destination of fulfillment. Despite this understanding, the subject described by the piece continues to struggle towards a climax of temporary happiness, only to return to sighs. The ending of the work unites material from the beginning of the first and second movements and transforms it. In the very end, the subject transcends with the final note and, at least, finds peace there.

The Pull

for piano trio

Abigail Richardson