

***Scintilla* (2005)**

for string quartet

By Abigail Richardson

Duration: approximately 9 minutes

This piece was commissioned by Radio France for the *Quatour Castagneri*, and was premiered at the 2006 *Festival Présences* in Paris, France.

Scintilla, the title of this piece, is Latin for spark or glimmer, representing ideas that people get and act upon as individuals or in larger social dynamics. Scintilla also refers to sudden interruptions of these dynamics through chaotic unpredictability of human existence. A musical spark starts something which is soon interrupted by another spark. This spark, in turn, triggers something new again. This concept creates an uncertain state for the listener, who can never be certain about the course of things. Eventually, the spark is resisted and the music is allowed to follow through to completion.

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