Programme note

**Invention (1996)**

**Douglas Finch**

The title of *Invention* (1996) refers both to the contrapuntal nature of the piece (often featuring two lines, in homage to Bach’s *Inventions*) and to something more general – the joy of musical invention for its own sake. The piece is made up of sections that are highly contrasting in speed, texture and mood. These changes are frequent and abrupt, but with a more extended tranquil central section. One of the invented, or re-invented, devices used is a kind of *hocket* technique where particular notes from the main lines are doubled – creating a second pair of slower moving lines, which get incrementally in and out of ‘sync’. I was particularly interested in exploring the potential of two keyboards creating two different colours at the same pitch, emulating some of the overlapping effects Bach achieved in his two-manual harpsichord works. *Invention* was first performed by Dietmar Schmuecker and myself on *The* *Continuum Ensemble’s* concertseries in London, December 1996.

© Douglas Finch 1996