Programme note

**Lamentations for Alto Flute, Violin and Piano (2001, revised 2007)**

**by Douglas Finch**

*Lamentations* was first performed by Lisa Nelsen, Kirsty Staines and myself in a concert by The Continuum Ensemble at The Warehouse, London on November 7, 2001. The piece expands on a melody used at the beginning of my theatre piece *Transplant* (Camden Theatre, November 13- 17, 2001), where parents and other observers are lamenting the bringing out of bodies following a fictional shooting in a school. The script by Jeremy Seabrook and Jonathan O'Neill is a satire on globalisation, and the selling of body parts in the Third World. When rehearsals for the piece were just beginning, news came through of the terrorist attacks in America on September 11. Besides a great feeling of sadness, there was also a certain amount of confusion and soul searching going on. This was felt in different ways around the world, but with our theatre group, it made us question whether such a satirical piece could still be put on in such times. *Transplant* did go ahead, and while finishing the music for that and undertaking rehearsals, I wrote this trio in a couple of weeks. It reflected my personal reactions to 9/11, and also served as a kind of antidote to my work on *Transplant*.

© Douglas Finch 2001-07