Programme note

**Little Waltz-Labyrinth (2014)**

**(on Strauss’ ‘Der Rosenkavalier’ and Beethoven’s ‘Grosse Fugue’)**

**Douglas Finch**

This piece forms the first part of a commission from Michael Corby, based on ideas from an improvisation on the occasion of his 70th Birthday Celebration at the Reform Club, London, on June 9th, 2014. My original improvisation was based on over a dozen musical themes suggested by Michael Corby, and this piece concentrates on just two of them – a waltz from the second act of Strauss’ ‘Der Rosenkavalier’, and the twin ‘subjects’ from Beethoven’s ‘Grosse Fugue’, the original finale to the op.135 String Quartet. These ideas represent for me two very different visions of musical romanticism, and I have attempted to fuse them together into a miniature world of nostalgic recollection, somewhat like a music box, or a little puzzle.

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