Programme note

**Lyric (1984)**

**by Douglas Finch**

The initial idea for *Lyric* was conceived on an evening walk just outside of the tiny northern town of Leaf Rapids, Manitoba (when I was on tour for Jeunesses Musicales). As dusk turned the sky behind the pine trees a very dark but luminescent blue, I experienced something of the duality of nature – at once frightening and consoling. It brought to mind a section of one of Rainer Maria Rilke’s ‘Improvised Verses’:

in the end,  
it is our unshieldedness on which we depend,  
and that, when we saw it threaten, we turned it  
so into the Open that, in widest orbit somewhere,  
where the Law touches us, we may affirm it.

Musically, the piece is based on a scheme of expanding and contracting intervals, and is influenced both by Messaien and Rihm.

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