Programme note

**Ruins - for Flute, Violin and Piano (1984)**

**Douglas Finch**

The title of *Ruins*refers to Schumann’s originally intended name for the first movement of his *Fantasy in C major*. In September 1984 I was walking around the ruins of Drachenfels Castle near Cologne with my pianist friend Ulrich Dunsche, when I began to hear imaginary disembodied, ghost-like fragments from ‘The Crow’ from Schubert’s song cycle *Die Winterreise*. As a consequence, I began writing these pieces shortly afterwards while visiting the Tracy family in Brussels, where Anne, Elaine and Arpiné first performed them in their home. The music employs very simple material, but requires considerable control and concentration from the performers. Moods range from bleak to nostalgic, with the last piece providing a kind of emotional culmination that dies away with a fragment of ‘The Crow’ echoing canonically in the atmosphere.

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