

Dei Destini Incrociati for chamber ensemble (2003)

Commissioned by the Triolog Ensemble for the 2003 Munich Biennale, *Dei Destini Incrociati* forms a diptych with another work of mine, *Fra Duri Scogli*.

The stimulus for this work came whilst reading *The Castle of Crossed Destinies* by Italo Calvino. In his novel, Calvino allows imagery found on a deck of Tarot cards to provide him with the germs of subject matter for all the episodes throughout the book, thus turning the Tarot cards into 'story telling machines'.

It was Calvino's manipulation of the Tarot that suggested the idea of constructing a piece based on the organisation of a limited number of musical cells that, though fixed, would be treated to various changes in presentation, through context and instrumentation. Smaller events, built from presentations of the same material (chordal, melodic or repeated rhythmic groupings) populate the larger sections of the work.

Perhaps the antique nature of Calvino's subject matter suggested the use of certain techniques found in music of the *Ars Subtilior* period (late 14th century), its highly ornate and fluid rhythmic structures appealed to me and have much in common with my own rhythmic schemes. However certain ends are achieved, two predominant goals were the expression of virtuosity and colour, two principal concerns in my work.

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