

for the Trio Gaspard
in memory of my mother

Trance

Sally Beamish (2023)

Adagio cantabile ♩=60

Violin

Violoncello

Piano

solo con sord. senza vib.

poco vib.

senza vib.

poco vib.

ppp *mp* *pp* *p* *pp* *mf*

Adagio cantabile ♩=60

ppp *pp* *p* *ppp* *pp* *mp* *ppp*

vib. norm.

pp *p*

pp

PROGRAMME NOTE

This piece was commissioned by the Trio Gaspard to sit alongside Haydn's piano trios. The sound of these wonderful players was in my head as I wrote. Haydn's trios famously give a pretty subordinate role to the cello, so my first idea was to make the cello a soloist in my piece. My relationship with Haydn's F# minor trio goes back to childhood, when my mother, violinist Ursula Snow, performed it many times with her trio. I must have heard hours of rehearsal. This led me to think of my mother, and how much I miss her, and feel I understand her better as I get older. This short piece is dedicated to her memory.

I took F# as my starting point, and threaded in occasional notes taken from Haydn's *Andante cantabile* movement. The harmonies, which form a repeated chaconne-like pattern in the piano part, are also derived from the Haydn, but in my own way, and not necessarily audible to the listener. The music is like a series of fragmented memories; the violin at first ghost-like, while the cello has an improvisatory line; the violin then drawing the cello into its falling 5th motif, while the piano has the solo line. The three instruments become equal as the music comes to a head, before dissolving into a quiet final statement of the chord sequence.

The melancholic nature of Haydn's trio affected my approach, combined with memories of my mother and her gradual disappearance into dementia. The title, *Trance*, indicates a meditative state, but also a 'passageway', or departure – the confusing journey of my relationship with my mother as her personality shifted, changed and faded.

Sally Beamish, 2023

Duration: c. 4 minutes

*Trance was commissioned by the Trio Gaspard, and premiered
by them at the West Cork Festival on 28th June, 2023*