

L'Immensita dell'Attimo  
(version for flute and piano)

program note

This work started its life as a set of three songs for soprano and piano which set texts by the Italian poet Mario Luzi. The poems are from an early collection of Luzi's, called "La Barca", and was published in the 1930s. The three poems are called "L'Immensita dell'Attimo", "Fragilita" and "Natura". The piece, in its original form, was performed in Florence, Italy in 1995.

After completing the vocal version, I was commissioned a few weeks later to write a work for flute and piano for a festival in southern Italy which centered around and commemorated the achievements of the pioneering Italian flutist Severino Gazzelloni. It occurred to me that the Luzi songs would make sense in a transcription (even without words), and so I essentially converted the vocal part to a flute line. Although I certainly added some decidedly non-vocal sorts of sounds in order to make the flute behave more idiomatically, the piece retains its lyrical, cantabile character.

The three movements are linked to each other by two principal elements: a persistent theme of repeated notes and by the interval E-flat to G, which is presented both as a melodic as well as harmonic entity.

Joel Hoffman