

“Camino Azul” (String Quartet No. 4)

This work, which means ‘blue path’ in Spanish, was written for the Alma String Quartet in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is cast in three compact movements: “beginning” (moderate), “middle” (fast) and “end” (slow). The movement titles are intended and should be read as possessing multiple meanings (you are cordially invited to hunt them down after listening to the piece!). The first is essentially the unfolding of a melodic line into a contrapuntal fabric that expands, coalesces and then contracts. The second is cast in a modular design, and refers directly to the character we know as “scherzo”. That is, it doesn’t take itself too seriously. The third movement is the most dramatic of the three, essentially telling a complete story which needs no words to describe.

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