

All the Ends of the World is a string trio commissioned by The Juilliard School to begin the second half of the annual Irene Diamond Concert in Alice Tully Hall.

The work was written at the MacDowell Colony in the weeks just before 9/11. Bruce Brubaker, who curated the concert, had asked for a short work to serve as a "bridge" between Philip Glass's Fourth String Quartet and the Brahms C Minor Piano Quartet, op. 60. As such, the piece is something of a shapeshifter.

It introduces a stark "fallout" from the Glass Quartet, initially circumscribed both melodically and rhythmically. The opening material evolves sequentially, building momentum, gradually progressing to the sound world of the Brahms, passing through a prism of "extended tonality."

The cyclical reinterpretation of the opening material leads to a collapse of its boundaries as the residual force of the past is transmuted. By the final measures, the dialogue between past and present transforms itself ~ pulsating rhythms fall away to reveal the voice of the solo violin, yielding to a music of something different and strange.

All the Ends of the World is five minutes in duration.

- Kati Agócs