

Canzona – Program note

Canzona was written in 2000. The piece was originally part of a suite called *Secret Gardens*, the other movements of which are now withdrawn. The original *Canzona* was a sixteenth- and seventeenth-century instrumental form that developed out of the Netherlandish chanson - a form known for both its rhythmic contrasts and for its disposition in distinct sections. I employed this form as a model in creating a song-like, meditative nine-minute arc with distinct textural areas that build upon one another toward a central climax and denouement. Embracing a broad articulative and registral range on the instrument, my *Canzona* was envisioned as a virtuoso showpiece in the tradition of solo lute and guitar composers such as Bálint Bakfark, John Dowland, and Heitor Villa-Lobos.

-Kati Agócs, 2016