

*Tantric Variations*, commissioned by the Cecilia Quartet in 2015, is a string quartet eighteen minutes in duration. “Tantric”, from the Sanskrit, means “woven together”: We weave the strands of our nature into a unified whole. There are no separate movements; the form is continuous. The piece concentrates exclusively on an embellishing “turn” around a single note, with this simple and elemental motive assuming an increasingly individualized, elevated, and melodic presence. At first discrete, the variations begin to interrupt and even to invade one another, creating a dynamic form of “developing variations.” Over the work’s trajectory the motive finally flowers, bursting open into a more complete version of itself.

- Kati Agócs, 2016