

'...that which echoes in eternity' *for violin & piano*

The title of the work derives from Canto VI of Dante's *Inferno*:

*He wakes no more till the sounding of the angel's trumpet,
when the adverse Judge shall come:
each shall find again the sad tomb and take again his flesh an form
and hear that which echoes in eternity.*

The opening for solo piano is (perhaps unsurprisingly) dark and lugubrious, until the violin enters with a long held note, creating some light in the music. The violin note eventually blossoms into a more sustained and expressive version of the piano's opening melodic material, now accompanied by a warmer and more sonorous piano part.

Gradually the music becomes more and more turbulent, until the piano is playing fast figurations around the violin, which has become more dramatic and strident. The piano writing becomes increasingly dissonant until there is a climax with loud clusters. Out of this apparent destruction, the violin emerges with gentle string-crossing arpeggiation, virtuosic but angelically rising from the smoke as it were. Here I had in mind Biber's remarkable *Mystery Sonatas* of the 1670s, and in particular the final beautiful *Passacaglia* for solo violin which is meant to represent a guardian angel with child (I felt that a guardian angel would undoubtedly be of some use in Dante's *Inferno*).

The violin arpeggiation leads to a reflective and somewhat elegiac solo cadenza; the music is calmed and the piano gently re-enters. Eventually the music ends as lugubriously as it began, but this time the violin also has something to say.