

dawn panels program note

dawn panels was commissioned by the Adelaide Percussions and conceived as a showpiece for percussion quartet. To this end I decided to divide the considerable range of instruments into generic groups – instruments of wood, of metal and of skin – and to write a movement for each. The glistening collection of tuned metal instruments is used for the ternary slow movement which is the emotional core of the work. To precede this, there is a nervous athletic sonatina movement in wood, whose worrying ostinato for whip sets a dark undertone for the mood of this movement, serving as a preparation to the more serious second movement. The work ends with a spiraling rondo for drums. As this movement unfolds there is an increase in activity, dynamics and general density. The work concludes in a wild, almost orgiastic layering of rhythms.

The work's title was inspired by the various moods one can experience at this time of day – a time of tenderness, openness and hope. The piece is dedicated to Merilee.

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