

## **Programme note**

I made this piece for my wife, who was close by me for much of my time in isolation during the coronavirus pandemic.

The music began to emerge following a visit to Rome in February 2020, just as Europe was beginning to wake up to the danger Covid-19 might bring to us all. Yet, we were some way off being prepared for just how un-ordinary our lives would become. Nor could we have imagined for how long this would be.

Over the next few months, the music became a meandering melody, at first sparsely accompanied, both elements quietly asserting their temporal independence and their differences, as if heard from different places.

The romantics among you might choose to think that *Canzoni d'Amore da Lontano* represents the hesitant, not-quite-togetherness, characteristic of many burgeoning relationships, and the long, long progression towards synchrony. The more cynical might observe that synchrony and euphony may seldom coincide.

But this is not a threnody to things lost. It is what it says it is – a love song, or perhaps fragments of several love songs – as timeless, as painful, as joyous, as enigmatic and as forwarding-looking as ever. I imagine this music as ethereal. It may have started long before you hear it, and it may end... Who knows? – perhaps somewhere not yet reached.

**Ian Morgan-  
Williams**