

Programme Notes by Chris Darwin – use freely for non-commercial purposes

W. A. Mozart (1756-1791) Adagio and Fugue in C minor K.546 (1788)

This short work is an extension and rearrangement of a Fugue in C minor for 2 Pianos (K 426) that Mozart wrote in 1783 (around the time of the Linz Symphony and the Eb string quartet). It is not known why Mozart returned to this fugue although he could have been honing his fugal skills in preparation for the C major fugal finale of his Jupiter Symphony. The arrangement was probably intended for string orchestra since the bass line has plural violoncelli and contra bassi, but it is now usually performed by string quartet. The fugue was admired by Beethoven, who wrote it out himself, with some alterations and 'improvements'.