LAMENT, for the victims of natural disasters

for solo horn and 4 tam tams (if necessary, alternatives could be trumpet or 1 deep pitched gong or bell)

Roger Smalley (2005)

Commissioned for a fund raising concert for child victims of the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami by the Society of Professional Social Workers (WA) and the School of Music at The University of Western Australia on 27 November 2005. This first performance was played by Darryl Poulsen (horn) and the composer (tam-tams).

Composers notes:

The horn part is notated in F and sounds a fifth lower in both treble and bass clefs. However the entire piece may be transposed down by up to 5 semitones.

*4 tam-tams of differing sizes (eg 36", 30", 20", 12") are notated from high to low. *Use 2 woolly headed beaters

The tam tams provide a continuous background resonance and must never drown the horn. They should each produce a complex sonority without definite pitch. In the premiere the highest instrument was a 12" Chinese Tam-tam (with a pitted surface) struck with a medium hard felt beater.

Ideally the 2 performers should stand next to one another, centre stage. The tam tams should be grouped around the player so that they can be struck with the minimum amount of movement.

The basic tempo can be treated with considerable flexibility, following the ebb and flow of the music.

Duration: approximately 4 minutes.

Lament

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