

ISOLA PROGRAM NOTES

The word 'Isola' comes from an Italian translation meaning island, our island.

This environment evokes in me, a sense of expanse, a free and exposed landscape.....a sparseness, even a silence.....a timeless spacean openness.....and from this, an enveloping sense of peace which comes from being within this vast landscape.

These are the feelings I wanted to capture in the work.

The material itself comes from a descending 3 note motif.

It's structure is in ternary form and has its improvised origins from my interest in, and exploration of, regional southern italian folk songs.

Focus is on subtle gesture. Like dialects, certain gestures are interpretive and can mean different things within different contexts and can have completely different interpretations in other settings.

Gesture has a way of punctuating an expression to render a shading that a word or phrase itself cannot do.

Gestural elements, mindfulness to resonance and timbral qualities of sounds, on fluidity and bending and stretching of notes all combine here to create a sense of timelessness.

Dedicated to Joan Manzoni, my grandmother, who passed away on the other island - New Zealand, the day I completed this work.

Nina Sofo
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