

String Quartet No. 1: Laments and Fantasies

written 2015-16 for Quartetto di Venezia

String Quartet No. 1: Laments and Fantasies (2016) alternates laments for deceased composers associated with Italy, featuring quotes from their music, with fantasies developing related but original material. Lament I: Antonio Vivaldi quotes Venice native Vivaldi's E minor cello sonata, which I played as a teenager, and which I turned to when my cat, also named Antonio Vivaldi, unexpectedly died at the time I was writing this quartet. Once I had written that, I knew I needed to quote my teacher Robert Hall Lewis's (1926-1996) Atto for string orchestra, which in turn quotes the famous lament from Arianna by Claudio Monteverdi, another composer famous for his work in Venice, where Lewis was inspired to include this quote. My other grad school mentor, Robert Moevs (1920-2007), is more associated with Rome than Venice, having worked there as a Rome Prize laureate and Guggenheim grant recipient, and later lived there part time with his Italian wife. The final Lament starts by quoting the opening of his piano piece Phoenix.

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- I. Lamento I: Antonio Vivaldi
- II. Fantasia I: con moto
- III. Lamento II: Robert Hall Lewis
- IV. Fantasia II: Adagio – fuga
- V. Lamento III: Robert Moevs