

Caritas

Piano Trio

Kati Agocs

Time and again while traveling in Europe I came across depictions in paintings of the Annunciation. I became intrigued with the idea of the divine and the individual intersecting; the inner struggle of one person who is touched in some way by grace. *Caritas* deals with this individual's assimilation of news which has the potential to change the world. The "announcement" occurs within the first minute. A strong upward directionality exists both in the "cells" of musical material and in the overall thrust of the piece toward its central high point. This directionality is countered by the weight of four-three suspensions. In the central "plateau", these two elements are combined, along with the opening theme, now recontextualized. The interplay of the three types of material comprises the musical realization of a psychological process of resistance, coming to terms, and, finally acceptance. The stark closing section mirrors the descent of the divine element to a human level, and the projection of its impact outward into the world-at-large. Through a series of sequences it leads to the closing ominous gestures: The fate of this element in a human world mixes with hope for what it might ultimately bring to the future. *Caritas* was written for the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, where it was premiered in July 2001.