

## **TRISTIA – 6 lyric pieces for violin and piano (2006-07)**

This sequence of short movements has inscribed on its title page two fragments from the *Tristia* (1917-20) of Osip Mandelstam:

‘We shall die in transparent Petropolis,  
Where Prosperina rules over us...’

‘...And on my lips the black ice burns,  
The recollection of Stygian bells.’

They reflect my enduring attraction to the poets of the Russian ‘Silver Age’: Akhmatova, Tsvetaeva, Mandelstam – the brilliant but doomed generation, whose world was evoked and given its memorial in the ‘Poem without a Hero’ of Akhmatova. Like Mandelstam’s collection, my work is loosely bound together by recurrent themes and images, dominated by the master image of St. Petersburg.

1. *Appassionato*; with *élan*
2. *Semplice*; *feroce*
3. Frozen; radiant
4. *Presto*; still
5. *Acuto*
6. *Andante lugubre* – *alla barcarolla*

JEREMY DALE ROBERTS