

Spiral Spin (2023)

Hommage to Pablo Casals

Commissioned by the Kronberg festival

"The way upward and the way downward are the same." (Heraclitus)

One winter I used to start every morning by listening to Pablo Casals' recordings of J.S. Bach Cello Suites while having coffee and watching the falling snow. When many years later the Kronberg festival approached me with this commission, I was immediately taken by the echoes and nostalgia of that time....Perhaps that's why the very first idea was connected to the concept of the spiral spin, originating from gliding techniques and on a personal level, reminding of those swirling snowflakes. Spiral spins and dives are implemented as the overall structural shape of the piece - multiple ascending gestures in a spiral motion at various speeds finally resolving into one dizzying dive down.

The suggested performance pairing with J.S. Bach Cello suites (the premiere was originally placed after Suite # 3 and before Suite # 5) determined the harmonic choices for the piece, where the departure point is low C and the arrival point is the highest register of the cello with the final drop back to the original C. Yet the harmonic journey covers the entire register of the instrument.