

E chiaro nella valle il fiume appare (2015)

Commissioned by the Besançon International Music Festival.

Premiered on september 20, 2015 at the Théâtre de Besançon (France), as part of the 54th International Young Conductors Competition of the Besançon Music Festival, by the Sinfonieorchester Basel conducted by the three finalists.

E chiaro constitutes the central movement of the Symphonic Trilogy. This work for orchestra in a single piece appears as one slow movement inspired by this verse by Giacomo Leopardi and taken from his poem *La quite dopo la tempesta*. I wanted to compose a piece that celebrated the beauty of the Italian landscape, its natural calm and lyricism that gleam when it is reborn after a storm. Constructed around two themes (the first, stated with no harmonization from the beginning, the second more simmering and sensual from bar 26), the work deploys vocal lines with very flexible rhythms that crisscross each other until a great, luminous fortissimo. In the mysterious calm that follows, you can hear in the distance an old Neapolitan song (*Voca Voca*) played by the clarinet and the trumpet, and then lyricism surges up again (with a fleeting quote from Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*) to lead to a peaceful coda where distant bells recall Italian cities at sunset. It was commissioned by the Besançon International Music Festival, and my score is dedicated to its director Jean-Michel Mathé.

Guillaume Connesson