

REF Report and Summary

Colin Riley, *Warp and Weft*

Author: Colin Riley

Output Title: Warp and Weft

Brief description: A concerto for two cellos, string orchestra and percussion (score, concert performance, recording, education project)

Type of Output: Composition

Venues: Manchester Cathedral

Media of output: Recording mp3 file and PDF of score (items 1-2)

Contextual information: Evidence of premiere, review (items 3-4)

Index of information available for assessment on this site

Output

	Item/Link	Description	Additional information
1	Full version of recording	mp3 (running length 23mins 24sec)	Copy of the recording element of the output, made available by author.
2	Score	PDF (73 pages)	Copy of the score element of the output. Provided by author.

Contextual information

	Item/Link	Description	Additional information
3	Screenshot of premiere	PDF (1 page)	Evidence of dissemination
4	Review	PDF (1 page)	Evidence of dissemination/significance

Copy of 300-word statement

In conducting this research, my aim was to develop ways in which two lines can be woven together to create a larger whole. I wanted to develop these ideas specifically in the context of a contemporary concerto. The title 'Warp and Weft' mirrors the aim of the research, as it reflects

what the two cellos do in the composition and also how they weave with the orchestra around them.

The research process consisted of 12 months. Over the course of this period, a set of workshops (with the two solo cellists Gabriella Swallow and Guy Johnston) was delivered. In each workshop, ideas for integrating two solo lines into a larger 'whole' were explored. Short studies were composed and tested in which the two cellos played with each other, against each other, and off each other. These included studies of a) scordatura (re-tuning of strings), b) chordal re-voicing over two instruments, c) antiphonies, d) dialogue, e) dissonant triplet movement, and f) rhythmic grooves.

During the research process, we also recorded samples of musical fragments to form a set of 'building blocks' for an education project called 'Remix'. The project was in line with 'Warp and Weft' and explored the same research questions, namely an investigation of combining smaller elements into larger structures.

The completed musical composition provides an example of a new form of concerto; one exploring ideas of 'working together' rather than presenting virtuosity of a soloist against the backdrop of the orchestra. It makes a serious contribution to the concert repertoire in this area. Furthermore, the research findings demonstrate that scordatura (re-tuning of strings), combined with voicing across two similar instruments allows for new timbres for the 'cello. The utilisation of percussive elements on two combined cello lines can fashion a new form of 'rhythm section'

URL: <https://figshare.com/s/7eebe07dd94fab7036e>