

Still the Sea (2009) *for two guitars*

Stephen Goss

Still the Sea, written for ChromaDuo, is a homage to Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu. Its title both references his piece *Toward the Sea* for guitar and alto flute, and is a triple play on words: first, regarding his continuing influence in the classical music world; second, his musical style hallmarked by a sense of gentleness as opposed to goal-oriented movement; and third, the stilling of his voice after his death from cancer in 1996. Its three movements are loosely based on what Takemitsu stated as his three prime influences: Debussy, Nature and Duke Ellington. *The Black River* references impressionist harmonis and cascading rhythms; *Silent Pool* is the most direct homage to Takemitsu's own writing style; and *Fire Water* explodes with jazz-influenced energy.

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