

*Concert for ensemble and orchestra* was written in 2002 for the 75th anniversary of Barratt Due Music Institute in Oslo. It was premiered by an ensemble of graduate students from the institute and The Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Rolf Gupta.

The piece was written in several stages. The first stage written as an ensemble piece for the young musicians. This piece was worked on by the students and re-written by the composer to fit the abilities of the ensemble as far as possible. During the last re-writing the orchestral part was developed. Mostly the orchestra follow closely the structure of attacks and suspense in the music of the ensemble, but it also creates subtle contrasts and further expansions of rhythmic and harmonic structures.

The piece falls largely into two sections. In the first section the music is striving between the forces of activity and stagnation, which is the fundamental forces in the piece; the simultaneous co-existence of the contrasting elements of stagnation and movement. The music develops towards an increasingly violent and brute music, it gravitates towards a short orchestral tutti where the forces of the piece changes and the second section explores a long sustained "morendo", with a focus on an ever-changing harmonic web.

Henrik Hellstenius