

Elegy for piano trio was written in 2020, based on a solo piano piece written in 2006. At that time, I was reflecting very much on personal loss and the deep sadness one experiences when losing a loved one. This resonated even more with me in writing the recent piano trio version, as I have now lost both of my parents, my grandparents, and several much-loved aunts and uncles. Elegy is a piece which continues to encompass loss in my life journey.

The cello opens the work, with the main theme presented freely and sensitively. Low dyads enter in the piano, sounding a quiet death knell. The fifths at the end of the cello phrases reference the ending of Taps, a bugle call frequently used at military funerals.

The piano then enters with 16th-note figuration, delicately decorating the melody in the violin. Quartal harmonies and parallelism are used as the piece builds, with both violin and cello developing the theme and the piano accompaniment moving to 32nd note patterns. The last part is a quiet reflection, with the melody in duet between the violin and cello and bell-like structures in the piano finishing this elegy of personal loss.