

# Vita e Morte

**Vita e Morte** is a two-movement composition, conceptually linked by the dichotomy of **Life** and **Death**. Irrelevant of how one perceives them, neither are unidimensional – both have moments of dissonance, struggle, majesty and peace. It is with the idea of *struggle* and *peace* that I have composed these two distinct movements of **Vita e Morte** – it is up to the listener which movement is **Life** and which is **Death** to them.



Death and Life – Gustav Klimt (1915)

**Movement 1** is influenced by the Holy Minimalist style in its harmonic choices the use of a drone to start and end the movement representing the cyclical nature of **Life** and **Death**. Triplets are a prominent feature in both movements and pulses throughout this movement in a ‘heartbeat’ pizzicato ostinato to create a meditative effect and the build-up and resolution of dissonance.

div. (1. arco)  
mf  
div. (1. arco)  
(2. pizz.)

**Movement 2** is inspired by the Modernist style, in its employment of the B octatonic scale, meter changes and polyrhythms – intended to evoke the idea of *struggle*. Much like **Movement 1**, it begins and ends with a drone in the double bass to illustrate the cyclical nature of the relationship between life and death. I have constructed a cryptogram (in the French system) of **Death**, spelled out in the tubular bell part in Bar 53, that along with the toll of the funeral march are used to evoke scenes of **Death** which is contrasted with triumphant wedding bells at the end to evoke **Life**, the release of this *struggle*.

D E A T H

These two movements of **Vita e Morte** create contrasting but conceptually linked portraits of *peace* and *struggle* through their vastly different tone colours, textures, and styles but pose an identical question – does this movement mean **Life** or **Death**?