



The Intergalactic Cello Quartet | LEAP ONE

Jeremy Harman (USA) | Dave Haughey (USA) | Stijn Kuppens (BE) | Gunther Tiedemann (D) |

Recorded by Dave Haughey, Southampton/MA, 27-28 June 2023 |

Mixed by Gunther Tiedemann, Cologne, 26 July 2023 |

Track 1 mastered by Hannes Scheibenreif, Vienna, 2025 |

Tracks 2, 3, 4 mastered by Yannick Willox, Acoustic Recording Service Brussels, 2024 |

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1 Chick Chuck, composed by Gunther Tiedemann

"The theme of Chick Chuck radiates a strong melodic and rhythmic energy and is inspired by Chick and Chuck. There's no doubt about Chick Corea, but whether Chuck should be Barry or Norris remains to be seen... The theme provides the framework for a fairly free improvisation by the ensemble, based on a few rules of play that I have specified. Thus, the piece always takes a different course and shows a different face each time. Does that point more toward Berry or Norris?"

- Gunther Tiedemann

2 Don't be afraid of time, composed by Dave Haughey

"Don't Be Afraid of Time unfolds in cycles that never repeat the same way twice. The melody and harmonic motion are composed, but the meter and rhythm are chosen spontaneously by the performers in each pass. Each cycle allows a new perception of time to emerge, which the ensemble immediately accepts and explores together—inviting both performer and listener to embrace these shifting perspectives as a source of joy, spontaneity, and discovery."

- Dave Haughey

3 Mountains, composed by Stijn Kuppens

"Mountains is inspired by Stijn Kuppens' solo cello composition Montagnes. It is a canon-like, contrapuntal, and kaleidoscopic exploration that found its final shape in the very last moments of the recording session. With eyes closed, the four cellists surrendered completely to the flow of sound — letting the music unfold, breathe, and guide them toward something larger than themselves. In that shared moment of intuition and trust, their individual voices merged into a single, resonant landscape — as if the mountains themselves had begun to sing through their instruments. A meditation and a celebration, Mountains captures the quiet power of listening, unity, and spontaneous creation."

- Stijn Kuppens

4 The Angel of 1985 for cello quartet, composed by Stijn Kuppens

"The Angel of 1985 is a musical tribute to Omayra Sánchez Garzón, a 13-year-old Colombian girl who lost her life during the 1985 eruption of the Nevado del Ruiz volcano in Armero, Tolima. In the face of unimaginable tragedy, Omayra's courage and serenity sent a timeless message to the world — that even in the darkest circumstances, one can still bring light to others.

Originally written as a solo piece for cello, composer Stijn Kuppens has expanded it into a full cello quartet, allowing the music to breathe, respond, and resonate in new ways. The work features inspired improvisations by Jeremy Harman and Gunther Tiedemann, and a powerful chop solo by Dave Haughey, adding layers of texture and emotion.

The result is a deeply narrative composition that flows seamlessly from one atmosphere to another — blending classical and contemporary elements into a single, organic musical story."

- Stijn Kuppens