

Lament by
Catherine Thom

This graphic notation is a visual representation of Catherine Thom's song, Lament. The design is inspired by gothic church rose windows, namely the three found in the Notre-Dame cathedral, Paris. Rose windows are used to tell biblical stories, albeit mainly of the Last Judgement. But the Lament rose window captures the story of the second movement with the theme of loss. A silenced cry. Giving the audience perspective, to view life as a whole.

The window itself is split into 24 segments, each following 20 seconds in time starting from the top and working clock-wise. In order to interpret the music correctly, the piece must be viewed as a whole. The window is divided into the different musical characteristics of the song. Working from the middle, the blue pin-like shapes represent the dynamics of the piece, the larger the length then the higher the volume of that segment. The small white circles just above it represent the time signature in quarters. Above this, the larger white circle represents the tempo of that piece, more circles, higher tempo. Finally, and most importantly, the roses are found in the outer circle, weaving around the window they are played as they appear in the sequence. The different chords are shown with different colours: A (orange), B (green), C (brown), D (black), E (red), F (blue), G (purple). The chords are further divided into sharp sounds, represented with a star, or soft rounded sounds, shown with the flowing circles. The piece will never be played the same twice and should be played accordingly to the moment.

