

Park of Idols

for cello and guitar

for Leonid Gorokhov and Richard Hand

Stephen Goss (2005)

- 1 **Jump Start**
- 2 **Cold Dark Matter**
- 3 **Fractured Loop**
- 4 **Malabar Hill**
- 5 **The Raw**
- 6 **Sharjah**

When I was putting *Park of Idols* together, I asked Leonid and Richard for the names of musicians, composers, albums and pieces that they particularly admired or enjoyed. The wide-ranging list that came back helped to shape this diverse collection of six musical tributes.

The opening movement, *Jump Start*, is a quirky homage to Frank Zappa. *Cold Dark Matter* borrows its name from Cornelia Parker's 1991 artwork that comprises the ragged fragments of the remains of a garden shed destroyed in a controlled explosion – familiar objects are seen from an unfamiliar perspective. In my piece, splinters of Shostakovich's 14th symphony are scattered, filtered, stretched and reassembled so that the original is only faintly suggested. *Fractured Loop* is built out of re-ordered cuttings from a Pat Metheny guitar solo superimposed over a cello pizzicato bass line and *Malabar Hill* is a reworking of a *Mahavishnu Orchestra* track by John McLaughlin. The fifth movement *The Raw* is for solo guitar and draws on the harmonic idiom of Allan Holdsworth. *Sharjah* is a tribute to the prog rock band *King Crimson* where the cellist imitates the guitar style of Robert Fripp.

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Park of Idols was commissioned by Leonid Gorokhov and Richard Hand, who gave the first performance at the Keele Concert Society on 9th November 2005. They have recorded the piece on *The Garden of Cosmic Speculation* Cadenza Music CACD0604.