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Kareem Roustom Ḥanjale

for solo cello (2013)

Duration ca. 12 minutes

Hanjale: Program notes

'Ḥanjale', which means *swagger* in Arabic, derives its name from the colloquial saying "Awal al-raqs Ḥanjale" (*the dance begins with a swagger*). The saying can be interpreted to mean that larger actions begin with small moves or gestures. Depending on the context, this Arabic saying can allude to both positive and negative outcomes from simple beginnings. This work uses an ornate rhythmic cycle with seventeen beats as a frame work for its rhythmic structure and a four note motif as a basis for its melodic and harmonic structure. Hanjale is part of a series of works that reflect on the ongoing civil war in the composer's native Syria.

Ḥanjale

for solo cello











