

## **About the formal concept of the Canzon Quinta**

The present piece is based on an alchemistical concept. It consists of four movements which, in this sequence: earth, water, fire and air, are associated with one of the prime elements of nature and spirit as they were identified by the philosophical tradition of our and other cultures since antiquity. In each case, the themes of the movements 2-4 represent, according to the characteristics of their actually assigned element, a variation of the basic theme sounding through the first movement.

1st movement: The character of the earth element is dark, heavy, melancholic and of a kinda rough stand. Its gesture is of an enduring/bearing character.

2nd movement: The water element is more coherent - 'liquid' - and of phlegmatic coolness; reflection takes the place of mere bearing.

3rd movement: The fire element stands for movement, enthusiasm, energy and valour; coping takes the place of reflection. Expressing this concept by means of a fugue seemed mostly appropriate to me - like with a blaze, where one object after another gets seized by the flames, the musical theme and its derivations successively appear through all the parts.

4th movement: Regarding the air element I was intrigued by the dual meaning of the Hebrew term "ruach" (sometimes also transcribed as "ruwach"). "Ruach" means both 'air' and 'spirit' and phonetically reminded me of the German word "Rauch" meaning 'smoke'. So, the theme appears in some kind of dissolution here; like smoke fading away after a fire. In the same way, the initially lugubrious character of the music, most noticeable during the first movement, shall be completely dissolved or rather transcended at this point.