

Programme Note

for the work Déjà vu, for String Quintet or String Ensemble

by Vasilis Mouskouris (July 2013)

(Composed for non-professional orchestra consisted of late starters in music)

The French term *Déjà vu* means "already seen". It denotes the strong sensation that an event currently being experienced has been experienced before, whether true or not.

The piece is built upon an older idea of mine combined with fresh material. This old idea never found its way to a piece of music, but it occasionally kept buzzing in my head. Now old and new, past and present are somehow linked together, this tune still bearing a subtle sensation of a time back in the past.

After the first measures of an accumulating sonority, the cellos introduce the main theme, the rest of the strings providing a homophonic background. This theme reappears periodically from one instrument to another in different contexts or textures, but always recognizable.

Some episodes between theme entries have a rather lyrical character, while others are of a percussive nature where the not uncommon *Legno battuto* technique is combined with left hand muffling of the strings or strokes on the fingerboard, to create rhythmic effects rather than definite pitches. This serves as a contrasting element to the melodious thematic idea, which leads to a culminating ending.