

THE GIFT: MUSIC FOR STRINGS
ADRIANO CLEMENTE

01. The Gift	05:03	11. Cello Miniature V	01:24
02. Glad Day	02:16	12. Strings Melancholia	05:22
03. Cello Miniature I	01:28	13. Cello Miniature VI	01:27
04. December	03:24	14. Lullaby For An Unborn Child	03:08
05. Cello Miniature II	01:12	15. Cello Miniature VII	02:38
06. Chorale	04:55	16. Elegy For Elio	02:08
07. Cello Miniature III	02:00	17. Sunset	03:22
08. The Sacred World	04:00	18. Cello Miniature VIII	01:06
09. Cello Miniature IV	01:51	19. Who Draws Clouds In The Sky	04:11
10. Portrait	02:34	20. Snowdrop	01:25

Total time: 54:54

Produced by **Adriano Clemente**

Recorded at Music Factory, Grosseto, by **Piero Lanza**, in October and November 2025
mixed and mastered February 2026.

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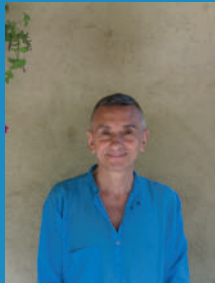
The gift

Not a single drop of rain
Falling on the green slopes
Of this old mountain
Has ever forgotten that it came
As a gift
From the sky

The Gift: Music for Strings brings together works for strings and mixed ensembles composed over the past thirty years. **The Gift** (2019, track 1), in four movements for violin, viola, two cellos, and double bass, was written together with the above poem during two weeks of continuous rain on Mount Amiata. **Glad Day** (2004, track 2), for harp, flute, oboe, and cello, takes its inspiration from William Blake's radiant painting. **The Eight Cello Miniatures** (2012–2016, tracks 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18) are duets for cellos, largely shaped by modal scales. **December** (2012, track 4) was written on the island of Tenerife for violin, viola, and two cellos. **Chorale** (1994, track 6), for harp, violin, viola, and cello, was first performed on Isla Margarita in 2004 with sitar player Steven Landsberg, who contributed a few ornamental passages. **The Sacred World** (2016, track 8) began as a cello miniature and later expanded to include viola and piano, becoming a tribute to Arvo Pärt. **Portrait** (2013, track 10) and **Lullaby for an Unborn Child** (2014, track 14) are duets for harp and cello. **Strings Melancholia** (2015, track 12) is scored for violin, viola, two cellos, and double bass. **Elegy for Elio** (2020, track 16), for two cellos and double bass, was composed in memory of Tibetologist Elio Guarisco, who passed away from COVID-19 that year. **Sunset** (1994, track 17) was originally composed for digital keyboards and later adapted for violin, viola, two cellos, and double bass. I recall playing its first version for Terry Riley at a friend's home, and how he firmly suggested that it should be performed by a full orchestra. **Who Draws Clouds in the Sky** (2019, track 19) commemorates the passing of Dzogchen master Chögyal Namkhai Norbu (1938–2018). Based on a traditional Tibetan chant, the work expands beyond the string quintet to include piano, brass, and winds. **Snowdrop** (2020, track 20), for viola and two cellos, evokes the image of a flower emerging from frozen earth in a chestnut grove.

— Adriano Clemente

Adriano Clemente-harp (2, 6, 10, 14), clave (12) • Aldo Milani-flute (2, 19), clarinet (19)
Alessandro Cavalieri-cello (1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19) • Andrea Lagi-trumpet, Flugelhorn (19)
Claudio Cavalieri-violin (1, 4, 6, 12, 17, 19) • Federico Manini-trombone (19)
Felice Tazzini-piano (8, 19) • Francesco Pierotti-double bass (1, 12, 16, 17, 19)
Gaetano Schipani-oboe (2, 19) • Michele Lanzini-cello (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20)
Riccardo Cavalieri-violin (1, 4, 8, 12, 17, 19, 20)



Composer and multi-instrumentalist Adriano Clemente was born in Lecce in 1958 and grew up in Naples. Although he did not receive formal musical training in childhood, he began playing guitar and piano at an early age and composed his first songs in the early 1970s. In 1974, he started setting poems by William Blake to music, and later formed a band that performed in Naples and Rome between 1978 and 1980. In 1982, he began studying Indian classical music, focusing on the sarod and training in the khyal vocal style. In 1986, he collaborated with Costantino Albini on the soundtrack for the television film *Cinque Piccoli Indiani*, directed by Paolo Brunatto. In 1991, he further deepened his knowledge of Indian ragas through the study of the dhrupad vocal tradition with Ritwick Sanyal. In 1996, Amiata Records released the audio cassette *Akashmani: Across the Sky* (ARNR 2496), featuring minimalist compositions performed on Yamaha and Roland keyboards. In 2000, he began formal studies in piano and jazz harmony, and subsequently took up the saxophone. In the following years, he also studied trumpet and trombone. In 2011, he founded the Akashmani Jazz Ensemble, which performed at various venues until 2014. In April 2015, his *Mingus Suite* was recorded in Rome by an Italian all-star ensemble including Marco Guidolotti, Daniele Tittarelli, and Mario Corvini. The CD *The Mingus Suite* was released in May 2016 (Dodicilune ED357) and received wide critical acclaim. In December 2015, he recorded a series of compositions in Havana with leading Cuban musicians, including pianist Leyanis Valdés, granddaughter of Bebo Valdés. The album *Havana Blue* was released in February 2017 (Fonosfere by Dodicilune FNF111). During a second trip to Havana in December 2016, he recorded *Cuban Fires*, conceived as a sequel to his first Latin jazz project. It was released in July 2018 (Fonosfere by Dodicilune FNF114). In the summer of 2021, he invited renowned tenor saxophonist David Murray and drummer Hamid Drake to participate in the recording of his large-scale composition *The Coltrane Suite*. The work was recorded in Rome in September and released as a double CD titled *The Coltrane Suite and Other Impressions* in May 2023 (Dodicilune ED542), receiving excellent reviews in Italy and internationally. Since 2024, he has been recording his compositions written in a post-minimalist and contemporary style, many of which appear in a triple cd set titled *Kaleidoscope* released in 2026 (Dodicilune, ED620-9). His deep interest in diverse musical traditions is reflected in a compositional voice that moves fluidly across genres, transcending stylistic boundaries.

Website <https://www.adriano-clemente.net>

All compositions by Adriano Clemente.

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