**The Butterfly Effect**

The title comes from Chaos Theory, which states that small changes in initial conditions of nonlinear deterministic systems can produce huge and unpredictable changes in outcomes. Much work was done on this by Edward Lorenz on weather systems, and the idea presented to the public was that a butterfly flapping its wings over the Azores could influence the formation of a tornado in the Philippines.

If there is an equivalent in the human realm, in our age it must be an unknown Swedish schoolgirl who decided to bunk off school to sit on the steps of the Riksdag as a protest against lack of action on climate change. From Greta Thunberg’s seemingly inconsequential action, a huge global movement has grown, having still unpredictable results.

The butterfly flaps its wings on three notes – G-rest-E-rest-A, taken from Thunberg’s name. From this mundane action, complexity grows. At first the butterfly flitters and soars, the music is rhapsodic to celebrate its intrinsic beauty. But then it must confront mechanised humanity, which threatens to destroy it. The driving, rocky music holds the butterfly as a symbol of the devasting species loss, particularly insect, which blights our planet. Does the butterfly survive? The audience will have to make up its own mind, but if we are to prevent a sixth mass extinction, including humans, we will indeed have to reach heights of thought and action hitherto unscaled.