

In early 2017, Colin challenged me to compose a work for him that incorporated his research interests in apocalyptic thought. In particular, he share with me the illustrations and writings by theologian Joachim di Fiore (1135-1202). Collected shortly after his death in the *Liber Figurarum*, Fiore's illustrations are vivid and arresting in their color and detail. I was compelled by his ability to communicate his thinking about the Trinity, its epochs, and impending apocalypse. In one illustration, Fiore offers three interlocking rings to represent the historical states of the world and their association with the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Fiore represents the Father, creator of nature, with a green ring. The blue ring stands for the Son, heaven-sent. The Holy Spirit's love is expressed in a red ring, which, for Fiore, was in the near future, yet to manifest. These rings were a way for him to understand his moment in relation to the history of the world and its coming end. So too, the illustration provoked me

to ponder the way in which we perceive ourselves in our moment, in our time. The rings invoke a foreboding curiosity towards the idea of apocalypse, and the end of it all. But what do we mean by apocalypse? What apocalypse? Which apocalypse? Fiore's illustration ironically provides both a seemingly definitive answer, and yet, give none at all – although, the 'Joachites' were certain that it would happen in 1260 – an important number in the book of Revelation.

When developing music for this new piece, I was coincidentally revisiting the work of Bob Dylan, following his recent induction to the Nobel Laureate. I was struck by the apocalyptic lyrics of his song, "The Times They Are a'Changing". They are hauntingly prescient now – in this era of rising sea levels, climate change, wars, and 'strong man' politics that care not for humanity – as they were over fifty years ago. Perhaps they both call for and signal an apocalypse?

With this in mind, I have composed a theme and variations on the melody of Dylan's song. To imbue the idea that 'the

end times' have yet to come (as predicted so many times over the centuries), the movements can be performed in any order, there is space to improvise between them (based on the content of the work), and they are accompanied by audio/visual animations that I project and that you can navigate and playback with your mobile devices. Thus, the work can start and end in different ways.

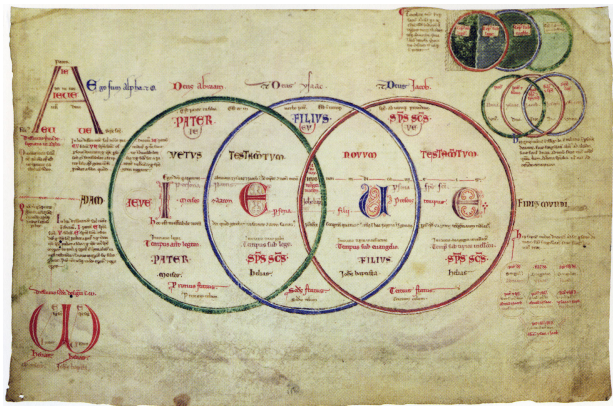
To participate, please turn on your mobile device and be sure to turn your media volume up. Then, open a web browser and navigate to:

<https://www.derekeller.com/end-times-media>

On this page you will find five playlists, each with three videos. During the 16-minute performance, play 1 or 2 videos of each playlist, in any order. Please allow 10-15 seconds between the end of one and the beginning of another. Thank you for participating, and revel in the intoning of the 'End Times...'

- DK

## The End Times Are a 'Changin'



fantasia on a theme by Dylan  
for guitar and socio-multimedia

By Derek Keller