



Nancy Van de Vate

FOUR SOMBER SONGS

for Mezzo-soprano and Orchestra

(1970/1991)

Eastern Front (Georg Trakl)
Alone (Edgar Allan Poe)
Mad Song (William Blake)
A Great Dark Sleep.... (Paul Verlaine)

Vienna Masterworks (BMI)
Khleslplatz 6, #2309
A-1120 Vienna, Austria

INSTRUMENTATION:

2 Flutes (2nd Flute alternates Piccolo)
 2 Oboes (2nd Oboe alternates English Horn)
 2 Bb Clarinets
 Bassoon
 Contrabassoon
 2 Horns in F
 Trombone
 Tuba
 Percussion (1 player):
 Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Large Tam-tam, Snare
 Drum, Medium Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbal, Afuché
 Harp
 Strings

SCORE IN C

(Octave transpositions for Piccolo, Xylophone, Double Bass and Contrabassoon are included in the score.)

DURATION = ca. 11 minutes

TEXTS:**I. EASTERN FRONT (Georg Trakl)**

The wrath of the people is dark,
 Like the wild organ notes of winter storm,
 The battle's crimson wave, a naked
 Forest of stars.

With ravaged brows, with silver arms,
 To dying soldiers night comes beckoning,
 In the shade of the autumn ash
 Ghosts of the fallen are sighing.

Thorny wilderness girdles the town.
 The moon from bloody doorsteps chases
 Terrified women.
 Wild wolves have poured through the gates.

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 from Hölderlin to Rilke," ed. Angel Flores, Doubleday and Co., Inc.
 Garden City, New York, 1960.
 Translated by C. Middleton.

II. ALONE (Edgar Allan Poe)

From childhood's hour I have not been
 As others were — I have not seen
 As others saw — I could not bring
 My passions from a common spring.
 From the same source I have not taken
 My sorrow; I could not awaken
 My heart to joy at the same tone;
 And all I lov'd, I lov'd alone.

III. MAD SONG (William Blake)

The wild winds weep,
 And the night is cold;
 Come, Sleep,
 And my griefs unfold:

To the vault
 Of paved heaven,
 With sorrow fraught,
 My notes are driven:
 They strike the ear of night,
 Make weep the eyes of day;
 Make mad the roaring winds,
 And with tempests play.

Like a fiend in a cloud,
 With howling woe
 After night I do crowd,
 And with night will go;
 I turn my back to the east
 From whence comforts have increased;
 For light doth seize my brain
 With frantic pain.

IV. A GREAT DARK SLEEP.... (Paul Verlaine)

A great dark sleep
 Has fallen on my life:
 Sleep, all hope,
 Sleep, all want.

I see nothing any more.
 I have lost memory
 Of good and of bad....
 O the sad story!

I am a cradle
 Rocked by a hand
 In the hollow of a crypt:
 Silence, silence!

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 French Poetry from Nerval to Valéry," ed. Angel
 Flores, Doubleday and Co., Inc., Garden City,
 New York, 1960. Translated by Kate Flores.

FOUR SOMBER SONGS

for Mezzo-soprano and Orchestra

I. EASTERN FRONT

NANCY VAN DE VATE (1970/1991)

Georg Trakl

Translated by C. Middleton

Grave; intenso ♩ ca. 60

Flute 1 *fp* *pp*

Flute 2

Oboe 1 *fp*

Oboe 2 *fp*

Clarinet 1 *fp*

Clarinet 2 *fp*

Bassoon *fp*

Contra-Bn.

F Horn 1 *fp*

F Horn 2 *fp*

Trombone

Tuba

Percussion CRASH CYM *f*

Harp

Mezzo-sop. *Grave; intenso* ♩ ca. 60 *f* *p* *mp*

The wrath of the people is dark, Like the wild or-gan notes

Violin 1 *fp* *div.* *pp*

Violin 2 *fp* *pp*

Viola *fp* *div.* *(p)*

Cello *fp* *div.* *unis.* *(p)*

Bass *fp* *1/2*

10

poco a poco accel.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bn.

C-Bn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Trb.

Tuba

Perc.

Vib. (motor off)

Harp

Mezzo

poco a poco accel.

mf

of win - ter storm, The

10

poco a poco accel.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

un.

mp

un.

mp

div.

tutti

mp