

Wolfgang Florey  
(2019)

*für Friedrich Danielis*

*Aging*

Three Poems by  
Michael Hamburger

für Mezzosopran, 2 Violinen, Viola und Bassklarinette

1

It is a return, with the luggage lighter,  
Some of it lost, though it held the snapshots, notes  
But for whose evidence none could be sure  
Where he has been, the traveller come home.  
Hardly himself, rid of the clutter,  
More lithe for that in mind, in limb the heavier  
For having dragged belongings yet again  
From house to train, station to station,  
From train to airport, counter to gate,  
From airport to new lodging,  
Slepp wrung from strange street noises, on a rented bed.  
There's not room in one heart, one head  
For the ten times ten thousand things.

Winter light, then, on a field grown barer,  
Some of the great trees rotted, some cut to the stump.  
Plainsong once more, after polyphony  
That clotted, cloyed the ear and died of richness.  
Within a single line, the length and depth  
Of all past seeing now, past hearing,  
Concert of absent voices, instruments;  
And in one faint unseasonable breath  
Essence of what the winds of many seasons carried  
Across the frontiers, shores,  
Parallel, solstice, turning of eras, years.

*Michael Hamburger*

1

♩ = 60

*accel.* . . . . .

Stimme

♩ = 60

*accel.* . . . . .

Violine

Violine

Viola

Bassklarinette  
in B

Stimme

VI.

VI.

Vla.

B. Kl.

5

Stimme

Vl. I

Vl. II

Vla.

B. Kl.

*pp*

*pp*

3

3

3

♩ = 60

9

Stimme

Vl. I

Vl. II

Vla.

B. Kl.

it is, —

it is, —

*pp*

*ppp*

*pp*

3

3

3

♩ = 60

11

Stimme

it is, is,

VI.

VI.

Vla.

B. Kl.

13

Stimme

it is, it is, it is, it is a re-

VI.

VI.

Vla.

B. Kl.