Malcolm Dedman

Memories of Simona

for Male Speaker and Orchestra

2003/04, revised 2009

Duration: 8 mins 30 secs

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Orchestration

- 2 Flutes (2nd doubling Piccolo)
- 2 Oboes (2nd doubling Cor Anglais)
- 2 Clarinets in B[,] (2nd doubling Bass Clarinet)
- 2 Bassoons (2nd doubling Contrabassoon)
- 2 Horns in F
- 2 Trumpets in C
- 2 Tenor Trombones
- 1 Bass Trombone
- 1 Tuba
- 3 Percussion players
 - 1: Tubular Bells, Marimba, 5 Roto Toms (Eb2, G2, C3, E3, F#3) and Vibraphone (bowed).
 - 2: Medieval Tabor, Cabasa (or Shaker), Tenor Drum, Tam-tam and Rainstick.
 - 3: Field Drum (or Large Side Drum), Maracas, Large Suspended Cymbal (share with player 2), Glockenspiel and Bass Drum
- 1 Electric Piano
- 1 Electronic Keyboard

Male Speaker

Strings

Note: All instruments are written in their respective transpositions.

Details of Electronic Instruments

Electric Piano: should have a Grand Piano sound and two Electric Piano sounds, 'hard' and 'soft'. It should also have two effects, such as 'flanger' and 'chorus'. As an alternative, a second Electronic Keyboard may be used.

Electronic Keyboard: should have the following sounds, or equivalent:

Humming Pad (or soft vocal/human pad) - has a soft attack of about 1 second.

Echo Celesta - use a standard celesta sound with a digital decaying echo effect. Each echo is to be slightly less than a second later than the sound before, with the sound echoing for up to 3 seconds after the keys are released.

Goblin - has a soft attack of about 3 seconds.

The keyboard should also have 'flanger' and 'chorus' effects.

Both instruments are to be connected into a sound system. A microphone for the male speaker should also be mixed into the sound system, as he is required to speak quietly.

Text used in Memories of Simona

Memories of you Oh! Simona. Our music filled our souls.

Memories of our love, We shared our thoughts So deep and true.

You, dear one, showed How to channel White Light; The Light that heals; Divine Light.

You showed how thoughts Are so real, And how to channel these too.

You showed how dreams Occupy your nights With the work you had to do.

Memories, your memories, Not of this life, but Of what, where and when?

Memories of you Dear Simona. How we all miss you, Your qualities were a rich jewel.

Yet now, dear one, You have passed To the Kingdom of Abhá.

Your life here, so short, Is surely being rewarded there. You left so quickly, I had no time to say 'Goodbye'.

You and I will meet again When it's my time to go. Again we shall play sweet music That ascends to the Realm on High.

We shall aim for perfect peace And help to fulfil God's Will. Dear loved one, How I miss you.

Malcolm Dedman

The composer married Simona Rozanne Morris (ne Marcel) in November 1977. Simona suffered a miscarriage during 1979, and subsequently gave birth to Nicholas James Dedman on 8 May 1980. After the birth, she went into a coma with a brain haemorrage and subsequently died around 12 hours after the birth.

The character of Simona is represented by the first theme in this music, with her love for mediaeval music. The second theme, from bar 19, represents the composer's character. These are brought together from bar 41 with this section ending in a representation of the miscarriage, and a tribute to the dead soul from bar 64. Life attempting to get back to normal is represented from bar 75. A sudden change at bar 95 represents the events that took place after Nicholas' birth, leading to Simona's death. Bars 117 to the end of the piece reflect her life after death, for both she and the composer believe wholeheartedly in the life hereafter, and that life on earth prepares us for the next.

It is the composer's hope that this music can offer some comfort to anyone who has lost a loved one, in whatever the circumstances.

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