

HARRISON BIRTWISTLE

White and Light

score

UNIVERSAL EDITION

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White and Light

Weiss und leicht

translated by Michael Hamburger.

Paul Celan is among the most important German language poets of this century, and in George Steiner's words, 'almost certainly the major European poet of the period after 1945'. He was born in 1920 into a Jewish family in Bukovina. He died by taking his own life in 1970.

Sich zählen, ungezählt

to be counted, uncounted

Im Windschatten, tausendfach: du,
Du und der Arm,
mit dem ich nackt zu dir hinwuchs,
Verborne.

In wind-shadow, thousandfold you
you and the arm
with which naked I grew towards you
last one

Die Strahlen Sie wehn uns zuhuf
Wir tragen den Schein, den Schmerz und den Namen.

The beams. They blow us together
We bear the brightness, the pain and the name.

Weiss,
was sich uns regt,
ohne Gewicht,
was wir tauschen.
Weiss und leicht:
Lass es werden.

White
what moves us
without weight.
what we exchange
White and light:
let it drift.

Die Farnen, mondah, wie wir, Sie bauen.
Sie bauen die Klippe, wo
sich das wandernde bricht,
Sie bauen
weiter:
mit Lichtschaum und staubender Welle.

The distances, moon-near, like us. They build
They build the cliff
where the drift breaks,
They build
on:
with light-foam and wave turned to foam.

Das wandernde, klippenher winkend.
Die Stirnen
winkt es heran,
die Stirnen, die man uns liest,
um der Spiegelung willen.

The drift that beckons from cliffs
It beckons
brows to come near,

Die Stirnen
Wir rollen mit ihnen dorthin
Stirnengestade.

Those brows we were lent
for mirroring's sake.

Schlafst du?

The brows:
we roll with them there
to a shore of brows.

Schlaf.

Are you asleep?

Marmühle geht,
erschelt und ungehört
in unsern Augen.

Sleep.
Ocean mill turns
ice-bright and unheard,
in our eyes.

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WHITE AND LIGHT

poem by Paul Celan translated by Michael Hamburger for soprano and four instruments.

Anna Richter

The score is written for soprano and four instruments: Clarinet 1 & 2 (not transposed), Violin, Viola, and Cello. The music is in 4/4 time and features a complex arrangement of melodic lines and textures. The soprano part includes the lyrics: "Si (1) kle dunes un counted. In wind-shadow, thou-sand fold, You and the arm with which ne- ked I grew to wards you,". The score is marked with various dynamics (ppp, p, mp, mf, f) and articulations (sempre legatiss, molto legato, senza portamento, sempre con sord., arco, pizz). There are also performance instructions like "always!" and "sol part.".

Handwritten musical score for the first system, featuring staves for Clarinet (clar.), Soprano (sop.), Viola (vla.), Violin (vln.), and Cello/Double Bass (cb.). The Soprano part includes the lyrics: "lo - st one. The beams they blow - us to - ge - ther. We bear the". The score includes dynamic markings such as *pp*, *mp*, *p*, and *mf*, along with performance instructions like *arco* and *pizz.* (pizzicato). There are also circled numbers 71 and 72, and a circled number 4 at the beginning of the Viola staff.

Handwritten musical score for the second system, continuing the instrumentation and vocal parts. The Soprano part includes the lyrics: "bright - ness, the pain and the name. White what moves us, with out - weight what". The score includes dynamic markings such as *pp*, *mp*, *f*, and *mpppp*, along with performance instructions like *arco* and *colla voce*. There are circled numbers 20 and 21, and a circled number 72. A note at the bottom right reads "sounding as written".