

Δυο τραγούδια
(Two Songs)
for mezzo-soprano and piano

written for and dedicated to
Nora Engonopoulos

Laonikos Psimikakis-Chalkokondylis

Δύο τραγούδια (2010)
for mezzo-soprano and piano

Performance Instructions

In the first song, accidentals apply only to the note they immediately precede. In the second song, accidentals carry through to the end of the measure, though cautionary accidentals have been liberally applied in both cases.

The rhythms in the first piece should be flowing (apart from the fast section, where it should be as accurate as possible), and the fermatas held comfortably and not rushed.

The music in bars 6-7 of the second piece is written in 4/4 with a lot of beams so that less emphasis is placed on the individual beats within the bar, and more on the individual notes which should sound quite even; despite this, the bars should consist of distinct phrases themselves)

Duration: about 3-4 minutes in total.

Programme Note

Prosodía acts as a kind of prelude to the second song. It uses material from ancient Greek music and chanting, where they would open a singing feast by usually singing a song accompanied by a single instrument, playing a melody in unison. The structure of the *Prosodía* is in effect the model for the structure of the second song, *Litsany*.

Litany was written using a combination of traditional Greek folk tunes and jazz harmonies. The text used was written by the composer for this composition, and is a short text regarding the current economic crisis in Greece, and many of the long-term issues with the Greek state which are implicit in this particular economic crisis. The jazz harmonies and rhythms are related to the beginnings of jazz as funeral music, and thus, on one level, acts as a comment on the gravity of the current crisis. On the other hand, the repeating melodies act as a kind of litany, which comes from the Greek “Λιτανεία” (trans. “prayer”), and on another level expresses hope for a better tomorrow.

London, 05/03/10

Texts

I. Προσωδία (Prosodía)

[Vocalise, no lyrics]

II. Λιτανεία (Litany)

Greek:

*ένα και δυο και τρία και τέσσερα και πέντε κι έξι και επτά κι οκτώ κι εννιά και δέκα
και δε μας παρατάς, ανήσυχους, φιλήσυχους, και ήσυχους
έχουμε πλέον κουραστεί*

*τα παιδιά μας
δίχως μέλλον
δίχως φτερά*

English (translation):

one and two and three and four and five 'n' six and seven 'n' eight 'n' nine and ten

*why don't you leave us, worried, peace-loving, and alone
we're tired now*

*our children
without a future
without wings*

I. Προσωδία

Prosodía

Laonikos Psimikakis-Chalkokondylis

Ritually (♩ = 80-90)

Piano

pp *mp* *poco* *p*

8vb

depress silently and
hold with sostenuto
pedal throughout

Agitated (♩ = 116-124)

Notes:

Take your time with the fermatas/pauses, don't hurry the music.

Non-vibrato throughout.

* this figure should be played
in the same tempo as it was
played earlier, as a reminiscence
of it

rit. ----- **Tempo I** *p*

ff

fff

ppp

mp

una corda _____ ^

p

mp

p

mp

pp

pp

mf

pp

ppp

(hold until sound fades completely)

II. Λιτανεία

Litany

3

Laonikos Psimikakis-Chalkokondylis

Nostalgically (♩ = 48-54)

Piano

sfz p

depress silently

pp

p

with pedal,
but not cluttered

p

mf

sfz

3
έ - να και
ε - να κε

mp *pp* *mp*

4
 δυό και τρία και τέσσερα και πέντε κ'έξι και επτά κι'οκ-τώ κι'εν-νιά και δέ, πα ρα ρα ράμ και δε μας
 ðjɔ ke tria ke tess-ε-ra ke pen-de kek-si ke ep-ta kjɔk-to kjɛn-ɲa ke ðe, pa ra ra ram ke ðe mas

mp *ppp* *mp*

pp *p* U.C. *pp*

mf *p* *f* *sfz*

5
 πα-ρα-τάς αν-ή-συχους, φιλ-ή-συ-χους, και ή-συ-χους, έ-χου - με πλέ - ον κου - ρα - στεί
 pa-ra-tas an-i-si-xus, fil-i-si-xus, ke i-si-xus, ε-xu-me ple-on ku-ra-sti

p *f* *sfz* *pp*

Slightly slower tempo (but the music should sound faster) - until the end (♩ = 42-46)

6

detached but phrased together;
 as if it's a weird Scarlatti piece

mf

use pedal only if necessary;
 very clear and light sound

7

ff

8

p *f*

τα παι - διά μας δι - - - χως μέλ - - - λον τα
 ta pe - ðja mas ði - - - xws mel - - - lon ta

mp

mf with pedal, like in the beginning *mp*

10

mp

— παι - διά μας δι - χως μέλ - λον —
 — pe - ðja mas ði - xws mel - lon —

f *p*

mf

12 *f* *mp*

δί - χως φτε - ρά α
 ði - xos fte - ra a

p *mf*

13 (with closed lips) *p* *f* *subito p* *mp*

μ μ μ *gliss.*
 m m m

8va

mf *p* *pp* *pp*

14 *poco accel.* *p* *ff* *pp*

pp