

Staffan Storm

Voices from the Abyss

for mixed chorus and solo cello

Score

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Voices from the Abyss

(2022-23)

For mixed chorus and solo cello

Texts from the poetry collections in the Lund University Special Collections archive "Witnessing
Genocide." English translations by Jo Brachman

Commissioned by and dedicated to Daniel Hansson
and Ensemble Syd

Durata: 50 min.

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1. Sonata I (cello solo) – page 2
2. My dear dead / Moi drodzy zmarli – page 2
Poet: Unknown
Source: Notebook with cover of striped prisoner's clothing, inmate #11260, red triangle, and letter P meaning political prisoner
3. About good and bad death / O dobrej i złej śmierci – page 8
Poet's initials: H. G.
Source: Notebook with cover of striped prisoner's clothing–
4. *From:* Do you remember the war, the camp and us / Czy pamiętasz wojnę – page 14
Poet: Fela Cymerman
Source: A song from Miss Użelowa Collection
5. Sonata II (cello solo) – page 15
6. I Miss / Tęsknię – page 16
Poet: Unknown
Source: Notebook with cover of striped prisoner's clothing
7. I do not know anything anymore / Nic już nie wiem – page 29
Poet: Unknown
Source: Notebook with cover of striped prisoner's clothing
8. *From:* Do you remember the war, the camp and us – page 34
Poet: Fela Cymerman
Source: A song from Miss Użelowa Collection
9. Sonata III (cello solo) – page 36
10. Return / Powrót – page 36
Poet: Zofia Iwanicka
Source: Notebook of Poems by Zofia Iwanicka
11. I am like those dead / Jestem jak owi zmarli – page 40
Poet: Unknown
Source: Notebook with cover of striped prisoner's clothing
12. *From:* Do you remember the war, the camp and us – page 46
Poet: Fela Cymerman
Source: A song from Miss Użelowa Collection
13. Sonata IV (cello solo) – page 48
14. I know you're thinking about me again / Wiem, że znów o mnie myślisz – page 49
Poet: Unknown
Source: Notebook with cover of striped prisoner's clothing

Voices From the Abyss

I. Sonata

Staffan Storm

♩ = 54

Violoncello *f* *mf* *f*

Vc. *p* *f* *mf* *p* rit.

II. My dear dead

♩ = 64

Soprano 1 2 *p* My —

Alto 1 *pp* mmm...

Alto 2 *pp* mmm...

Tenor 1 *pp* mmm...

Tenor 2 *pp* mmm...

Violoncello *ff* *pp*

7

S. 1 2 *mf*

— dear — dead, — my dear — li-ving in — long — ings — and strange — dreams

A. 1

A. 2

T. 1

T. 2

Vc. *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf*

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13

S. 1
2 they haunt me in crowds.

A. 1

A. 2

T. 1

T. 2

B. 1
2 My heart in vain wants to un-der-

Vc. *p* *mf* *mf* *mf*

p *mf* *mf* *pp*

18

S. 1
2 ...that you are al - rea - dy ha - - - py,

A. 1
2 ...that you are al - rea-dy hap - py and oth-ers, some - where, some - where

A. 2
2 ...that you are al - rea-dy hap - py and oth-ers, some - where, some - where

T. 1
2 ...al - rea-dy hap - py and oth-ers, some - - - where

T. 2
2 and oth-ers, some - - - where

B. 1
2 stand that you all still ex - ist that you are al-rea - dy hap - py, that you are al - rea-dy hap - - - py, and

Vc. *p* *mf* *f*

p *f* *p* *f* *f*

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23

S. 1
2 and o - - thers, some - where in the dis - - tance, are fight-ing for ex - is - tence.

A. 1
2 in the dis - tance, in the dis - tance, are fight - ing for ex - is - tence.

T. 1
1 in the dis - tance are fight - ing for ex - is - tence. for ex - is - tence.

T. 2
2 in the dis - tance, are fight - ing for ex - is - tence. for ex - is - tence.

B. 1
2 oth - ers, some - where in the dis - tance, are fight - ing for ex - is - tence, for ex - is - tence.

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

28

S. 1
2 And may - be they miss now or may-be they think of now. At least they did not want to die so

A. 1
1 *pp* mmm...

A. 2
2 *pp* mmm...

T. 1
1 *pp* mmm...

T. 2
2 *pp* mmm...

B. 1
2 *mp* And may - be they miss now or may-be they think of now. At least they did not want to die so

Vc. *ff* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

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34

S. 1
bad - - ly. They are gone and will not come back,

S. 2
bad - - ly. They are gone and will not come back,

A. 1

A. 2

T. 1
...en -

T. 2
...en -

B. 1
bad - - ly. They are gone and will not come back,

B. 2
bad - - ly. They are gone and will not come back, en -

Vc.
f *p* *f* *f* *p*

39

S. 1
mp en - tang - led in sha - - - dows, *f* en - tang - led in sha -

S. 2
mp en - tang - led in sha - - - dows, *f* en - tang - led in sha - dows, my li -

A. 1
mp en - tang - led in sha - dows my li - ving and dead, *f* en tang - led in sha - dows, li - ving and dead, in sha-dows my

A. 2
en - tang - led in sha - dows my li - ving and dead, en tang - led in sha - dows, li - ving and dead, in sha-dows my

T. 1
tang - led in sha - - - dows, my li - ving and dead, *p* li - ving and

T. 2
tang - led in sha - - - dows, my li - ving and dead, *p* li - ving and

B. 1
tang - led in sha - - - dows, my li - ving and dead, *f* en - tang - led in sha - dows, my li - ving

B. 2
tang - led in sha - - - dows, my li - ving and dead, en - tang - led in sha - dows, my li - ving

Vc.
mf

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44

S. 1
- dows, my li - ving and dead, as un - - reach - ab - le, ghost - -

S. 2
- ving and dead, both just as lost, just as un - reach - ab - le,

A. 1
li - ving and dead, both just as lost, as lost, just as un reach - ab - le,

A. 2
li - ving and dead, both just as lost, as lost, just as un reach - ab - le,

T. 1
dead, just as lost, un reach-a - ble, ...ghost - -

T. 2
dead, just as lost, un - reach-a - ble, ...ghost - -

B. 1
and dead, both just as lost just as un - reach - ab - le, as un - reach - ab - le,

B. 2
and dead, both just as lost just as un - reach - ab - le, as un - reach - ab - le,

Vc.
p 5 5 5

48

S. 1
- - - ly. Who

S. 2
- - - ly. Who

A. 1
ghost - - - ly. Who

A. 2
ghost - - - ly. Who

T. 1
- - - ly. Who

T. 2
- - - ly. Who

B. 1
ghost - - - ly. Who

B. 2
ghost - - - ly. Who

Vc.
5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

50

S. 1
2
knows if I will come back to the dead or the li-ving? Who knows if

A. 1
2
knows if I will come back to the dead or the li-ving?

T. 1
8
knows if I will come back to the dead or the li-ving? mmm...

T. 2
8
knows if I will come back to the dead or the li-ving? mmm...

B. 1
2
knows if I will come back to the dead or the li-ving? Who knows if

Vc.
p 5



53

S. 1
2
I will come back to the dead or the li-ving? Who knows which ones I will see first?

A. 1
pp mmm... f pp

A. 2
pp mmm... f pp

T. 1
f pp

T. 2
f pp

B. 1
2
I will come back to the dead or the li-ving? Who knows which ones I will see first?

Vc.
ricochet ad lib.
mf p mf mf p

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III. About good and bad death

♩ = 58

Soprano 1 2 *mp* I

Alto 1 2 *mp* I

Tenor 1 2 *mp* I

Bass 1 2 *mp* I

Violoncello *ff* *p* *ff*

4

S. 1 2 *f*
thought it would come for me some day in the li - lac end of the night dawn,

A. 1 2 *f*
thought it would come for me some day in the li - lac end of the night dawn,

T. 1 2 *f*
thought it would come for me some day in the li - lac end of the night dawn,

B. 1 2 *mf*
thought it would come for me some day in the li - lac end, end_ of the

Vc. *ff*

8

S. 1 2 *mp* 3
in the qui-ve-ring glow of

A. 1 2 *mp* 3
in the qui-ve-ring glow of

T. 1 2 *mp* 3
in the qui-ve-ring glow of

B. 1 2 *f* *p* *mf*
night dawn, in the qui - ve - ring glow. of yel - low cand - les,
sul pont. *tr*

Vc. *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *p*

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