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In This Dead End

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Publication Date

2020

SEPEHR PIRASTEH

IN THIS DEAD END

for Mezzo Soprano and Chamber Orchestra

Based on a poem by Ahmad Shamlou

Mount Pleasant MI, USA
March 2019

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www.sehehrpirasteh.com

Program Note:

In 2009, during the Iranian election protests, Neda, a musician, and a philosophy student was shot dead in the middle of the street in Tehran when she was participating in the protests. The videos of her death went viral on the internet and I saw her bleeding and dying with a bullet in her heart. For every day of my high school years, I remembered the days and nights full of fear, tension, and depression.

In This Dead End is a poem by Ahmad Shamlou, the most influential poet of modern Iran, that captures Iran's atmosphere after the revolution in 1979. Forty years later, this poem still depicts Iran and is prohibited from being published. This piece is dedicated to Neda Agha-soltan.

-Sepehr Pirasteh, March 2019

Duration:

ca. 5 minutes

Performance notes:



Indicates quarter flat



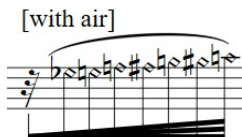
Indicates quarter sharp



Gradually faster



Slap tongue



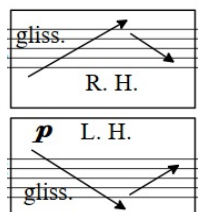
Play with a lot of air
approximate pitch



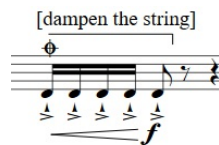
Sing and play



Key clicks



Inside the piano, touch the strings, go back and forth with the palm of hand



Strings should dampen the indicated string and play with a lot of bow pressure



Glissando to the highest possible pitch

Instrumentation:

Flute
Clarinet in Bb
Bassoon

Alto Saxophone
Trumpet in C
Trombone

Percussion (1 Player)
Chimes
Vibraphone
Crotales
Snare Drum
Bass Drum
Almglocken

Mezzo Sonparno

Piano

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
Bass

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Poem by:
Ahmad Shamlou

Dedicated to Neda

IN THIS DEAD END

for Mezzo Soprano and Chamber Orchestra

Sepehr Pirasteh (b. 1993)

Ominous
♩ = ca. 60

Flute

Clarinet in B♭

Bassoon

Alto Saxophone

Trumpet in C

Trombone

Percussion

Soprano Solo

Piano

Ominous
♩ = ca. 60

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

[straight mute]

pp

pp

p

p

Chimes

p

Red.

[change the bow when needed]

p

p

5 [with air] 8 ad lib.

Fl. *p* *f* *mf* *ff*

Cl. *pp* *p* *ff* [flutter]

Bsn. *pp* *p* *molto espress.*

Alto Sax. *p* *mf* *ff*

C Tpt. *ff*

Tbn. *ff*

Chim. To Vib. *ff*

S. Solo

Pno. *ff*

Vln. *ff*

Vln. *ff*

Vla. *p* *ff*

Vc. *p* *ff*

Cb. *p* *ff*

8 ad lib.

9

Cl. *molto espress.* *p* *f* *pp* *fp* *n* [flutter]

Bsn. *f* *pp* *f* *p* *f*

Alto Sax.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Chim. *mf* *pp* *ped.*

S. Solo

Pno. *n* [lift the pedal slowly]

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc. *p* *n* [dampen the strings, air-noise sound]

Cb.

14 A tempo

7

14

Fl. [sh] *mf* *f* [sh] *mf* *f*

Bsn. [key clicks] *p* *mf*

Alto Sax. [air] *mf* *f* [air] *mf* *f* *ff*

C Tpt. [harmon mute] *sf* *sf* *sf*

Tbn. [straight mute] *p* *mp*

Vib. [with bow] To S. D. [snare drum] *p* *p* [snare off] *mf*

S. Solo *p* [whisper] "They Smell your breath" You bet ter not

Pno. Inside the Piano gliss. R. H. *p* L. H. gliss. *p* [just touch the strings with the palm of hand, move back and forth] *mf* Play, Ord. 3 3

14 A tempo

Vln. [behind the bridge] *p* [ord.] *p*

Vln. *p* [col legno, ricochet] [ord.] *p*

Vla. *p* [col legno, ricochet] *p*

Vc. *p* [col legno, ricochet] s. p. → ord.

Cb. *p* *p*

18

Fl. *mf* 5 *ff* [overblow] *ff* [flutter]

Cl. *mf* [flutter]

Bsn. *mf* *ff* *pp*

Alto Sax. *p* *mf* [growling] *ff*

C Tpt. *mf* [straight mute] *ff* *p*

Tbn. *mf* *ff*

S. D. *f* *ppp* *fff* To Crot.

S. Solo have said I Love

Pno. *ff* *fff* Red.

Vln. [gliss. on D and A] *ff* *fff* [highest poss.]

Vln. [ord.] *mf* *ff* *fff*

Vla. *ff* *fff*

Vc. [ord.] *mf* *ff* *fff*

Cb. *ff* *fff*

21

22

[overblow]

sim.

Fl.

f 6 *sf* *f* *ff* *f* 6 *sf* *f* *ff*

[with air]

Cl.

fff *f* *sf* *fff* *f* *sf*

Bsn.

sf *sf*

Alto Sax.

sf *sf*

C Tpt.

ff *p* *ff*

Tbn.

sf *sf*

Crot.

Crotales

f *f*

[can be pitchless]

S. Solo

You I Love You I Love

simile.

Pno.

8^{vb} Ped. 8^{vb} Ped. Ped.

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score, page 9, measures 22-24. The score is for a symphony orchestra and a solo voice. The instruments listed on the left are Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Alto Saxophone (Alto Sax.), Cornet (C Tpt.), Trombone (Tbn.), Crotales, Solo Voice (S. Solo), Piano (Pno.), Violin I (Vln.), Violin II (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 22 features complex woodwind passages with 'overblow' and 'with air' markings, and a solo voice entry with the lyrics 'You I Love'. The piano part has a low register marked '8vb'. Measures 23 and 24 continue the orchestral textures with various dynamics like *fff*, *sf*, *f*, and *ff*, and include a 'simile' marking for the solo voice.

[illegible]

31

Fl.

Bsn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

B. D.

S. Solo

Pno.

senza sord.

ff

[hard mallet]

[stage whisper]

mf

these are strange times ...
these are strange times, my dear!
Strange times my dear!

mf

And

(8)

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

sul pont.

p

sul pont.

p

sul pont.

p

sul pont.

p

36

Fl. *p*

Cl. *p*

Bsn.

C Tpt.

Tbn. *ff*

B. D. *ff* To Vib. Vibraphone

S. Solo *f*
they flog

Pno. (8)

Vln. *ff*

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

[illegible]

50

[overblow]

47

Fl.

Cl.

Bsn.

Alto Sax.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Vib.

S. Solo

Pno.

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f *6* *fff*

sfz *sfz* *f*

[harmon mute] *ppp* *f*

sfz

mf *f* *mf* *f*

In this dead end

mf *f* *fff*

Red. *Red.*

50

mf *f* *ff*

mf *f* *ff*

p *f* *ff*

p *f* *ff*

mf *ff*

51

Fl.

Cl.

Bsn.

Alto Sax.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Vib.

S. Solo

Pno.

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

p *f*

p *f*

pp *f*

[plunger mute]
take off the mute slowly

ppp *f*

p *f*

p *f*

pp *f*

ff

ff

pp

They feed the fi - re by burn - ing our songs and po - ems

fff *p* *f* *p*

mf

pizz.

To Chim.

mf

58

Fl. ⁵⁸ *p* *f* *ff* *p* *ff* [flutter] 6 [overblow]

Perc. Chimes [soft mallet] *p* *pp* Almglocken [soft mallet] *pp*

S. Solo [spoken]
Do not risk a thought. These are strage times my dear!

Pno. Ped.

Vln. ⁵⁸ *ppp*

Vln. *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

Cb.

64

Perc.

S. Solo

He who knocks on the door at the midnight has come to kill the light...

Pno.

64 col legno [dampen the string]

Vln.

col legno [dampen the string]

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mp

mf

f

ord. [dampen the string]

simile. 3

8^{vb}

This musical score page contains measures 70, 71, and 72. The instruments are arranged in two systems. The first system includes Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Alto Saxophone (Alto Sax.), Contralto Trompete (C Tpt.), and Trombone (Tbn.). The second system includes Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), Violin I (Vln.), Violin II (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.).

Measure 70: Most woodwinds and strings are silent. The Piano (Pno.) plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in both hands, marked with a '5' (quintuplet) and a 'φ' (accent). The Percussion (Perc.) plays a steady eighth-note pattern in both hands.

Measure 71: The woodwinds (Fl., Cl., Bsn., Alto Sax., C Tpt., Tbn.) enter with a half-note chord, marked *pp* (pianissimo). The Piano (Pno.) continues the quintuplet pattern. The Percussion (Perc.) continues the eighth-note pattern.

Measure 72: The woodwinds play a half-note chord, marked *ff* (fortissimo). The Piano (Pno.) plays a sustained chord, marked *ff*. The Percussion (Perc.) continues the eighth-note pattern.