

Richard Ratner

Deathfugue

a setting of the poem by
Paul Celan

in an English translation by
John Felstiner

for

Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, String Quartet
and Male Voice

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Paul Celan, Mohn und Gedächtnis. Gedichte
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Selected Poems and Prose of Paul Celan
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Paul Celan

Deathfugue (Todesfuge)

Richard Ratner

$\text{♩} = 60$ (Adagio)

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in Bb

Voice

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

9

18

Musical score for measures 18-25. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. It contains a melodic line with a fermata at the end. The second staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic and ending with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The third staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic and ending with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature, containing a bass line.

Musical score for measures 26-33. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature, containing a melodic line. The second staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature, containing a chordal accompaniment. The third staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature, containing a bass line. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature, containing a bass line. Dynamics include *f* and *ff*.

26

8va

Musical score for measures 34-41. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature, containing a melodic line with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The second staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature, containing a chordal accompaniment with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The third staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature, containing a bass line with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature, containing a bass line with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic. Dynamics include *f* and *ff*.

32 (8) ← ♩ = ♩ →

mf *mf* *mf*

40

mf *mf* *p* *p*

49

p
Black milk of day-break we

58

drink it at eve-ning we drink it at mid-day and mor-ning we drink it at night we drink and we drink— we sho-vel a grave in the

63

mf *ppp*

air where you won't lie too cramped

p

69

mp

mf A man lives in the house he

ppp *mf*

78

plays with_ his vi-pers he writes he writes when it grows dark to Deut-schland

your gol - den hair your gol - den hair your

85

your gol - den hair your gol - den hair your

92

f *p*

f *p*

f *p*

gol - den hair Mar-ga - re - ta he writes it and steps out of doors and the stars are all

f *p*

f *p*

f *p*

f *p*

98

mf *p*

mf *p*

mf *p*

mf *p*

spark - ling he whis - tles his hounds to stay close he whis - tles his Jews in-to

mf *p*

mf *p*

mf *p*

mf *p*

105

Musical notation for measures 105-110. The top system consists of three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor) which are currently empty. Below them is the piano accompaniment, including a bass line and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs).

rows has them sho-vel a grave in the ground he com mands us play up for the

Musical notation for measures 105-110, showing the piano accompaniment. It includes a grand staff with treble and bass clefs, and a separate bass line. The music features a steady rhythmic pattern with various chordal textures.

111

Musical notation for measures 111-116. The top system consists of three vocal staves. The piano accompaniment includes a grand staff and a bass line. Dynamic markings include *mf* and *f*. There are also triplet markings (3) in the piano part. A tempo or performance instruction $\leftarrow \text{♩} = \text{♩} \rightarrow$ is present above the vocal staves.

dance —

Musical notation for measures 111-116, showing the piano accompaniment. It includes a grand staff with treble and bass clefs, and a separate bass line. The music features a steady rhythmic pattern with various chordal textures. Dynamic markings include *mf*.

117

← ♩ = ♩ →

Musical score for measures 117-122, top system. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower staves. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked with a half note equal to a quarter note.

f Black milk of day-break *p* we drink you at night we drink you at mor-ning and

Musical score for measures 117-122, bottom system. It continues the piano accompaniment from the top system, with dynamic markings of *f* and *p*.



123

Musical score for measures 123-128, top system. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower staves. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Dynamic markings include *mf* and *p*.

mid day we drink you at eve-ning we drink and we drink— A man

Musical score for measures 123-128, bottom system. It continues the piano accompaniment from the top system, with dynamic markings of *mf* and *p*.

128

lives in the house_ he plays with his vi - pers_ he writes_ he writes when it grows dark to Deut schland

Meno mosso **A tempo**

your gol-den hair Mar-ga-re - ta your a_ shen hair_ Shu - la - mith we

ppp *p*

138

sho-vel a grave in the air where you won't lie too cramped

143

He shouts dig dig this earth dee-per you lot there you o-thers sing up and play

149

mf

mf

f

he grabs for the rod in his belt he swings it

mf

mf

154

mf

his eyes are so blue stick your spades dee-per you

159

lot there you o - thers play on for the dan - cing



164

Black milk of day-break we drink you at night we drink you at mid-day and

170

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

mor-ning we drink you at eve-ning we drink and we drink a man

175

Meno mosso A tempo

pp *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *p* *p* *p* *p*

lives in the house your gol-den-es Haar Mar-ga-re-te your a-sche-nes Haar Su-la-mit

182

he plays with his vi- pers

188

He shouts play play death more sweet-ly this Death is a

spoken harshly, ad lib.

194

mas-ter from Deut-schland he shouts scrape scrape your strings dar-ker you'll rise up as smoke to the sky

200

← ♩ = ♩ →

you'll then have a grave in the clouds where you won't lie too cramped

205

Black milk of day-break we drink you at night we drink you at mid-day

211

spoken, ad lib.

Death is a mas-ter aus Deut sheland we drink you at eve-ning and mor-ning we drink and we

217

mf

mf

mf

p spoken sotto voce, ad lib.

drink _____ this Death is ein Meis-ter aus Deut-schland

222

f 4:3 4:3 4:3 4:3 4:3

f

f *ff*

his eye _____ it is blue he shoots you with shot made of lead shoots you

ppp *p* *f*

ppp *p* *f*

ppp *p* *f*

ppp *p* *f*

228

4:3 4:3 4:3

mf

mf

mf *p*

p

le - vel and true a man

p

p

p

p

233

lives in the house_ your gol-den-es Haar_ Mar-ga - re - te he loos-es his hounds on us grants us a

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

3

238

Musical score for measures 238-243, top system. It features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by notes for 'grave in the air' and 'he plays with his vi- pers he day dreams'. The piano accompaniment includes a treble clef staff with a *mf* dynamic marking and a bass clef staff with a *mf* dynamic marking.

Musical score for measures 238-243, middle system. It features a vocal line with lyrics and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "grave in the air he plays with his vi- pers he day dreams der". The piano accompaniment includes a treble clef staff with a *p* dynamic marking and a bass clef staff with a *mf* dynamic marking. The word "der" is followed by the instruction "whispered, ad lib".

Musical score for measures 238-243, bottom system. It features piano accompaniment for measures 238-243. The piano accompaniment includes a treble clef staff with a *p* dynamic marking, a middle staff with a *p* dynamic marking, and a bass clef staff with a *mf* dynamic marking.

244

Musical score for measures 244-249, top system. It features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by notes for "Tod ist ein Mei-ster aus Deut-schland dein gol- den - es Haar Mar - ga - re - te". The piano accompaniment includes a treble clef staff with a *pp* dynamic marking and a bass clef staff with a *pp* dynamic marking.

Musical score for measures 244-249, middle system. It features a vocal line with lyrics and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Tod ist ein Mei-ster aus Deut-schland dein gol- den - es Haar Mar - ga - re - te". The piano accompaniment includes a treble clef staff with a *pp* dynamic marking and a bass clef staff with a *pp* dynamic marking.

Musical score for measures 244-249, bottom system. It features piano accompaniment for measures 244-249. The piano accompaniment includes a treble clef staff with a *pp* dynamic marking, a middle staff with a *pp* dynamic marking, and a bass clef staff with a *pp* dynamic marking and a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3'.

248

ppp
dein

mp

mp

mp

mp

254 **Meno mosso**

A tempo

mf

mf

mf

Meno mosso

A tempo

a - shen-es Haar Su - la mit

263

mf

mf

Musical score for measures 263-268. The first system contains two staves with treble clefs and one staff with a bass clef. The music features melodic lines with slurs and dynamic markings of *mf*. The second system contains three empty staves with treble clefs and one empty staff with a bass clef.

Empty musical staves for measures 263-268, consisting of three treble clef staves and one bass clef staff.

269

Meno mosso

pp

p

pp

Musical score for measures 269-274. The first system contains two staves with treble clefs and one staff with a bass clef. The music features melodic lines with slurs and dynamic markings of *pp* and *p*. The tempo marking *Meno mosso* is present. The second system contains three empty staves with treble clefs and one empty staff with a bass clef.

Empty musical staves for measures 269-274, consisting of three treble clef staves and one bass clef staff.