

Score

Katharina S. G. Mueller (2024)

Métamorphose

for Organ and Tenor Solo

Duration ca. 8''

To my friends Carolyn Hoff and Rowan Taymuree

Performance Notes:

This piece began from a desire to set the text of a female French writer, in her original language. Searching through centuries of beautiful French poetry, I quickly realized that I didn't want anything that rhymed; I wanted nothing so subtle as the reveries secreted away in stanzas about the lives of women, profound as they are, nor did I want to add yet another love song to the accumulation. Instead I came to the prose of Simone de Beauvoir, to her timeless *Le Deuxième Sexe*, *The Second Sex*. So groundbreaking was her philosophy, delivered in full and sage conviction, that the book was banned in Francoist dictatorship in Spain in the 1950's, and for many years was listed in the Vatican's *Index Librorum Prohibitorum*. I read until I found the phrase, "When she does not encounter love, she may encounter poetry," and knew there was a song to be found there. *Métamorphose* is a setting of Simone de Beauvoir's terms of transcendence: freedom through authenticity, and a passion for life, which a young girl gives to herself and which belongs wholly to her.

French Text:

"Quand elle ne rencontre pas l'amour, il lui arrive de rencontrer la poésie. Parce qu'elle n'agit pas, elle regarde, elle sent, elle enregistre; une couleur, un sourire trouvent en elle de profonds échos; car c'est en dehors d'elle, dans les villes déjà bâties, sur les visages d'hommes faits qu'est épars son destin..."

La jeune fille se jette avec ardeur vers les choses, parce qu'elle n'est pas encore mutilée de sa transcendance; et le fait qu'elle n'accomplit rien, qu'elle n'est rien rendra son élan d'autant plus passionné: vide et illimitée, ce qu'elle cherchera à atteindre du sein de son néant, c'est Tout."

Translation:

"When she does not encounter love, she may encounter poetry. Because she does not act, she observes, she feels, she records; a color, a smile awakens profound echoes within her; her destiny is outside her, scattered in cities already built, on the faces of men already marked by life..."

The young girl throws herself with ardor towards things, because she is not yet deprived of her transcendence; and the fact that she accomplishes nothing, that she is nothing will make her momentum all the more passionate: empty and unlimited, what she will seek to achieve from the bosom of her nothingness is Everything."

Beauvoir, Simone de. *Le Deuxième Sexe II: L'Expérience Vécue*. Éditions Gallimard, 1949.
ISBN 2-7242-4851-1

Performance Notes:

The continuous gestural texture and non-melodic snippets of motif are inspired by French impressionist composers, especially Ravel. The tenor soloist should be able to float above or on the surface of the organ texture, supported as if by flowing or surging water, but never fighting to be heard nor drowned out.

The tenor soloist is most often tender, and should capture a curious and imaginative spirit, and a sense of a future full of possibilities.

Dynamics: “+ stop” asks for an increase in dynamics by adding to the registration. Dynamics are otherwise achieved with the swell boxes.

Articulations: Keep staccato notes sharp and clear. The staccato motif is also an invitation for some added space between chords when necessary: if the transition between one chord and the next is difficult to execute with complete legato, allow for a small pause between chords.

Registration is not fixed, however the full dynamic range for the organ part has to be in relation with the tenor soloist.

Métamorphose

for Tenor and Organ

Music by Katharina S. G. Mueller (2024)

Text by Simone de Beauvoir

$\text{♩} = 54$ Quietly Ecstatic

Sw. light, flowing *p* Ch. sparkling, bright stacc. So. gentle reeds legato *p*

Organ

Pedals

3 Ch. So.

Org.

Ped.

6 T. Solo (So.) *p* Quand el - le ne

Org.

Ped.

8

T. Solo

ren - con - tre pas l'a - mour

Org.

Ped.

10

T. Solo

il lui ar - ri - ve de

Org.

(Sw.)

Ch. less bright than beginning

Ped.

13

T. Solo

ren - con - tre la po - é sie

Org.

+ stop

mf

a little less staccato

Ped.

mp

15

T. Solo

Org.

Ped.

So.
murmuring, fl.

pp

(Ch.)

pp

A Very Quiet

17

T. Solo

Org.

Ped.

pp

par - ce q'uel le n'a - git pas el - le

pp

moving line mostly hidden in Sw.

Sw. bright but stable and calm

19

T. Solo

Org.

Ped.

mp

re - gar - de el - le sent, el - le en

poco a poco cresc.

Gathering Strength

21 *f*

T. Solo

re _____ gis - tre _____

Org.

f Gt.

Sw. darker contrasting color So.

Ped.

f

mp

B Changing Colors

23

T. Solo

un - e cou - leur, _____ un sou - rire _____

Org.

So. Sw. So.

Ped.

25

T. Solo

trou - vent _____

Org.

Sw. 6 6 6

Ped.

26 *mf*

T. Solo

en el le de pro - fonds

Org.

6 So. Sw. 6 So.

Ped.

27 *mp*

T. Solo

é - chos;

Org.

Sw. 6 6 6 6 6

Ped.

29

Org.

6 6 6 5

freely, natural rit.

Ped.

R.F. on box

mp

3 3 3

32

T. Solo

Org.

Ped.

Ch. a solo voice

So. mellow fl. + strings

p

p

mp

car c'est en d'hors d'el - le dan_ les

39

T. Solo

Org.

Ped.

mf

Ch. more subdued

pp

pp

pp

vil - les dé - ja bâ - ties, sur les vi - sa - ges d'hommes

46

T. Solo

Org.

Ped.

D *pp*

p

wood, dark, heavy

faits qu'est é - pars son_ des - tin.

53

Org. *So. dark reeds*
p

Ped.

mp + stop

gradually becoming more clearly articulate

60

Org. *mf* + stop

Ped. *poco* *a* *poco* *cresc.*

A Tempo 1, Quietly Ecstatic

65 (♩ = 54)

Org. *So. dark, reedy*
subp

Ped.

(So.)

67

Org.

Ped.

Ch. a bit of upper shine

69

Org.

Ped.

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

71

Org.

Ped.

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

74

Org.

Ped.

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

76

Org.

Ped.

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

E Peaceful, Ethereal

tenderly

9

78

T. Solo

Org.

Ped.

Sw. fl., mostly hidden in Ch.

pp

Ch. soft

La jeu -

80

T. Solo

Org.

Ped.

- ne fil - le se jet - te a - vec ar - deur vers les

82

T. Solo

Org.

Ped.

cho - ses, par ce qu'el - le n'est

84

T. Solo

pas en - core mu - ti - lée de

Org.

6 6 6 6

darker

Ped.

86

T. Solo

sa tran - scen - dan - - - - -

mp

Org.

6 (Sw.)

3 6 6 6 6 6 6

Ped.

88

T. Solo

ce;

freely, naturally rit.

Org.

Ch. 5 3 5 5

Ped.

p

F ♩ = 72

91

T. Solo

et le fait_ qu'el-le n'ac-com-plit rien, qu'el-le n'est

Ch. sparkling, bright, as beginning

Org.

p

Sw. as beginning

Ped.

96

T. Solo

rien ren - dra son é - lan_ d'au-tant plus pa - ssion - né: vi -

mp

mf

Org.

Sw.

Ped.

G Freely

H Tempo 1 Growing Again

102

T. Solo

- de_ et_ i - li-mi-tée,_ ce q'uel le_ cher-cher - a a

p

So. moving notes basically hidden in Sw.

Org.

Sw.

p

Ped.

p

108

T. Solo

at - tein - dre_

du sein

Org.

Ped.

mf

110

T. Solo

de son néant, _____

c'est Tout. _____

Org.

Ped.

p

I As the Beginning

113

T. Solo

So. gentle reeds
as beginning

Org.

Sw. light, flowing, as beginning

Ped.

mf

pp

p

115

Org.

Ped.

117

Ch.

Org.

Ped.

rit.

119

Org.

Ped.