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Belsen Silence

Monica Gil

Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois

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Duration: ca 3'

Belsen Silence

A Holocaust Remembrance Piece

Monica Gil (1996-)
Text by Iolo Lewis

♩ = 68-72, **andante**

Speaker: Rest (♩)

Clarinet in B♭: *mp* (measures 1-2), *mf* (measure 3)

Cello: *mp* (measures 1-3)

4 *rit.*

Sp.: Rest (♩)

Cl.: Rest (♩)

Vcl.: Rest (♩)

6 a tempo

Long gone the sound of battle from this foreign dell,
As we tread again the Belsen grass,

Sp.: Rest (♩)

Cl.: *p* (measures 5-6)

Vcl.: *p* (measures 5-6), *mp* (measures 7-8), *p* (measures 9-10)

8

Sp.: Rest (♩)

Remembering comrades, young men all,
Who died to reach this awful Hell,

Hallowed now for Eternity,
As the clouds from memory swiftly pass.

Cl.: *pp* < *p* > *pp*

Vcl.: (measures 11-12)

Belsen Silence

13

Sp.

Cl. *mf* → *pp*

Vcl. *mf* → *pp*

14

17

Sp.

Cl.

Vcl.

19

Listen then, can't you hear,
The silence here around,

21

Sp.

Cl.

Vcl.

Telling us of terror, and ancient bestial fear;
How real is this silence,

24

rit.

Sp.

Cl.

Vcl.

26

That permeates from underground?

p

p

28

Sp.

Cl. *mp*

Vcl. *mf*

32

Only fifty years ago, but now,
Forever, the silence condemns,
For here there lie, anonymous,

'Neath the soil, as we reverently bow,
Remnants of a living dead,
Whose silence still transmits, transcends.

37

38

42 meno mosso ($\downarrow = 64$)

Musical score for strings and woodwind instruments. The score includes parts for Sp. (String Bass), Cl. (Clarinet), and Vcl. (Double Bass). The vocal part is present in the original image but is not transcribed here. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system starts with a measure of rests for Sp. followed by measures for Cl. and Vcl. The second system begins with a measure for Vcl. followed by measures for Cl. and Sp. Measure 1 of the second system contains dynamic markings: *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, *mp*. Measure 2 contains *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, *mp*. Measure 3 contains *mf*, *mp*.

44

Sp.  Are you waiting for a question,
Or an answer, and a void to fill?
Quicken then the pulse, breathe deeper still,
Answer the silence to question,

Quicken then the pulse, breathe deeper still,
Answer the silence to question,

1

Musical score for Clarinet (Cl.) and Violin (Vcl.) showing measures 11-12. The score consists of two staves. The Clarinet staff starts with a dynamic of *p*, followed by *mp* and *p* markings. The Violin staff starts with a dynamic of *p*, followed by *mp* and *p* markings. Measure 11 concludes with a fermata over the final note. Measure 12 begins with a dynamic of *p*, followed by *mp* and *p* markings. The Violin staff includes a dynamic instruction "no decresc." above the notes. Measure 12 concludes with a fermata over the final note.