

Michael CUTTING

Das Irdische Leben

For soprano, percussion and tape

Full Score

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General notes:

This work sets part of the German folk poem *Das Irdische Leben*, part of the 19th Century folk collection *Das Knaben Wunderhorn*. Whilst the original presents the repeated begging of a child followed by the response of its mother, here the mother has been removed, leaving the child's begging unanswered. This isolation makes the child's increasing desperation seem even more poignant. There is an underlying link to the human crisis of current times, in which we are similarly witnessing the desperate cry of help from others, and the continued question of whether it will be answered.

Mutter, ach Mutter, es hungert mich,
Gib mir Brot, sonst sterbe ich.

Mother, oh Mother, I am hungry
Give me bread or I will die.

Instrumentation

Soprano, with two rocks (thin slate)

Percussionist: vibraphone, two rocks (thin slate), singing bowls

Fixed Tape

Duration: c.a. 7 minutes

Das Irdische Leben was commissioned by the Heidelberger Frühling as part of their *Das Neue Wunderhorn* programme. It will be premiered by Sarah Maria Sun and Johannes Fischer during the Heidelberger Festival on April 9th 2016.

Das Irdische Leben

for Sarah and Johannes

Michael CUTTING

$\text{♩} = 102$ carefree

Soprano

mp

mu - tter ach mu - tter

Vibraphone

soft sticks, motor off

mf *mf*

Red.

5

S.

p *mf* *lilting*

es hun - gert mich gib mir brot sonst

Vib.

mp *p* pick up rocks

c.a. 30"

10

S.

pp

ster-be ich

Vib.

rocks rub rocks in a circular motion *p*

repeat ad lib.

rocks rub rocks in a circular motion *ppp*

repeat ad lib. *p* *< f*

2

17 c.a. 15" stop when vibraphone enters

A ♩=92 with a little more intensity

Rocks *mp*

mu - tter ach mu - tter

Vibraphone

Rocks *mp* *p* *mp*

ped. *sim.*

22

S. *p* *mf* *p* *pp*

ich ach es hun - gert mich

Vib. *p* *pp* *p*

ped.

26

S. *f* *lilting* *p*

gib mir brot sonst ster - be ich

Vib. *p*

strike, then rub

p

rocks

32

Tape starts

B fragile

Rocks *mp* *pp* *pp* *mp*

mu - tter ach mu - tter

Vibraphone

Rocks *p* *pp* *mp*

ped. *sim.*

poco accel. A tempo

38 *p pleading* *mf* *f* 3

S. *ich ach ich es hun-gert*

Vib. *p p mf pp mp pp*

Ped. _____

43 *p p mp pp*

S. *mu-tter ach bi-tte ich*

Vib. *p pp p*

^ ^ sim.

49 *mf f p p* as if cut off

S. *gib mir brot sonst ster-be ich*

Vib. *f fp fp* rocks

55 *pp p pp* **C** ♩=84 very delicately

S. *ach ich mu-tter ach*

Rocks *fp fp* Vibraphone *p p*

Ped. _____

61

S. *p* *mp* *pp* *p*

mu - tter ach bi - - tte

Vib. *pp* *p*

65

S. *mp* *pp* *mp*

es hun - gert mich

Vib. *pp*

Ped. *Ped. sempre*

69

S. *pp* *p* *pp* < >

mu - tter. ich ach ich

Vib. *pp* *pp*

75


S. *pp* *mp* *p* *pp* very still

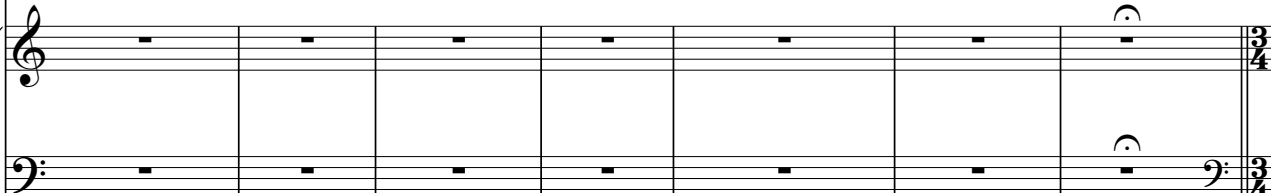
gib mir brot bi - tte

Vib. *ppp*


5
wait until tape chord

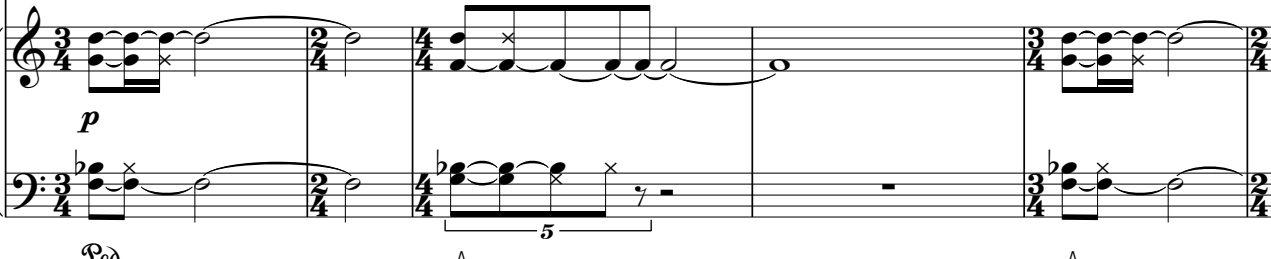
81

S. 
bi - - tte bi - tte


Vib. 

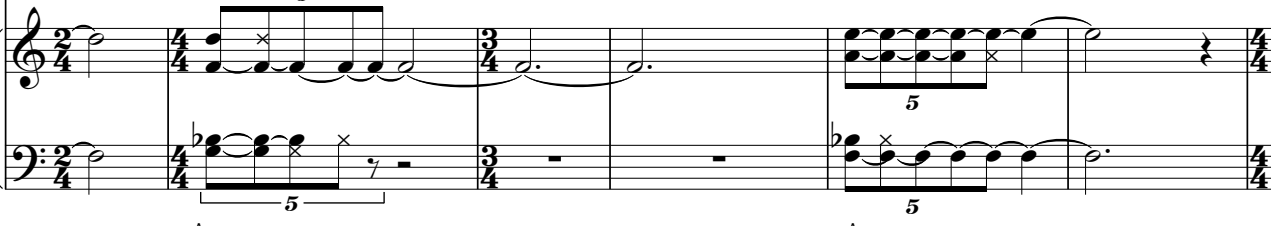
88 **D** ♩=70 resigned

S. *pp distant* 
mu - - - tter Mu-


Vib. *p* 
ped.

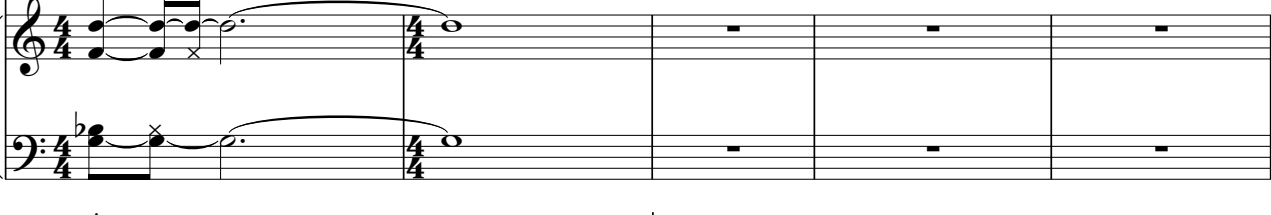
93

S. 
- - - tter ach Mu -

Vib. 

99

S. *pp* 
- tter ach

Vib. 

104 **E**

S. *ppp* mu - - tter *mp* ach

Vib. *mp* 5

Ped. 5

110 *p* (m)u *ppp* bi - *pp*

Vib. *p* 5 *ppp* *p* 5

Ped. 5 Ped. Ped. 5

115 - tte bi -

Vib. 5 *p* 5

Ped. 5

120 - tte ich ster - be

Vib. 5 *p*

Ped. 5

125

S. *pp* *ppp*

ich ster - be bi - tte

Vib. *pp* 5 *Red.*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for Soprano (S.) and Vibraphone (Vib.). The Soprano part is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a whole note rest, followed by a half note G4, and then a quarter note G4. The lyrics 'ich ster - be bi - tte' are aligned with the notes. The dynamics are *pp* and *ppp*. The Vibraphone part is written in grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp and a 3/4 time signature. It features a piano accompaniment with a 5-finger pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *pp*. A 'Red.' marking is present at the bottom of the vibraphone part.