

helle. piano concerto no. 1

piano, ensemble (var.)

eva-maria houben

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2024

For Guy Vandromme.

Helle

Graue Tage, wo die Sonne
sich wie eine blasse Nonne
hat gebärdet, sind nun hin.

Blauer Tag steht blau da oben,
eine Welt ist frei erhoben,
Sonn' und Sterne blitzten drin.

Alles das vollzog sich stille,
ohne Lärm, als großer Wille,
der nicht Federlesens macht.

Lächelnd öffnet sich das Wunder,
nicht Raketen und nicht Zunder
braucht's dazu, nur klare Nacht.

(Robert Walser, Helle; translated by Daniele Pantano)

Brightness

Grey days, on which
the sun carried itself
like a pale nun, are gone.

A blue day is blue above,
a world has freely risen,
in which sun and stars sparkle.

All of this transpired in silence,
without racket, as a great will,
and without much ceremony.

the miracle opens up smiling.
there is no need for rockets
or matches, only a clear night.

silence

vastness

peace

three movements –

maybe with decreasing tempo.

long(er) pauses between the movements – maybe with increasing duration:

times and places to listen, to muse, to lose oneself.

finding all together a path into silence.

piano:

each line a certain sequence of sounds.

moving quietly, flowing softly from tone to tone—following a more or less equal pulse.

alla breve, rubato.

ensemble (small notes):

sounds and silences freely unfolding in space and time.

any kind and number of instruments (voices), any octaves, any durations, any unpitched (perc.) sounds.

piano and ensemble together:

approaching both meanings of the verb “concertare“:

- creating the harmony of all voices
- competing, disputing

thereby finding a tender, careful, sensitive encounter—challenging and supporting each other.

1

I

ensemble

piano

$\sharp \underline{\underline{o}}$

$\sharp \underline{\underline{o}}$ 8^{va}

$\sharp \underline{\underline{o}}$ 8^{vib}

2

A musical score for two voices. The top voice uses soprano clef and the bottom voice uses bass clef. Both voices begin with eighth-note patterns. The top voice has a dynamic marking of p (pianissimo) above the first measure. The bottom voice has a dynamic marking of f (fortissimo) above the second measure. The top voice's melody continues with eighth notes, followed by a dynamic marking of $8va$ (octave up) above the third measure. The bottom voice's melody continues with eighth notes, followed by a dynamic marking of $8vb$ (octave down) above the fourth measure. The top voice ends with a single eighth note. The bottom voice ends with a single eighth note.

3

Musical score showing two staves. The top staff (treble clef) has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and contains measures 1-4 of a 4-measure phrase. The bottom staff (bass clef) also has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and contains measures 5-8 of the same 4-measure phrase. Measures 1-4 end with a double bar line, and measures 5-8 end with a final double bar line.

A musical score page featuring three staves. The top staff uses a treble clef, the middle staff a treble clef, and the bottom staff a bass clef. The key signature is F major (one sharp). Measure 5 begins with a rest followed by a note on the first line. The second measure starts with a note on the fourth line, followed by a rest, another rest, and then a note on the third line. The third measure starts with a note on the second line, followed by a rest, another rest, and then a note on the first line. The fourth measure starts with a note on the first line, followed by a rest, another rest, and then a note on the first line. The fifth measure starts with a note on the first line, followed by a rest, another rest, and then a note on the first line.

A musical score page featuring two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and has a key signature of three sharps. The bottom staff uses a treble clef and has a key signature of one sharp. The music consists of various note heads and rests, some with stems and some without, indicating different rhythmic values. Measure numbers 6 and 8 are visible above the staves.

7

8

9

II

10 *ensemble*

Musical score for measure 10:

- Treble Clef Staff:** Contains a single note on the 5th line.
- Bass Clef Staff:** Contains notes on the 4th line, 3rd space, 2nd line, and 1st space.
- Piano Part:** Labeled "piano" above the staff. Contains notes on the 5th line, 4th line, 3rd space, and 2nd line, with a dynamic of 8^{va} .
- Ensemble Part:** Consists of various notes and rests on both staves.

11

Musical score for measure 11:

- Treble Clef Staff:** Contains a single note on the 5th line.
- Bass Clef Staff:** Contains notes on the 4th line, 3rd space, 2nd line, and 1st space.
- Piano Part:** Labeled "piano" above the staff. Contains notes on the 5th line, 4th line, 3rd space, and 2nd line, with a dynamic of 8^{va} .
- Ensemble Part:** Consists of various notes and rests on both staves.

12

Musical score for measure 12:

- Treble Clef Staff:** Contains notes on the 5th line, 4th line, 3rd space, 2nd line, and 1st space.
- Middle Treble Clef Staff:** Contains notes on the 5th line, 4th line, 3rd space, 2nd line, and 1st space.
- Bass Clef Staff:** Contains notes on the 4th line, 3rd space, 2nd line, and 1st space.
- Piano Part:** Labeled "piano" above the staff. Contains notes on the 5th line, 4th line, 3rd space, and 2nd line, with a dynamic of 8^{va} .
- Ensemble Part:** Consists of various notes and rests on all three staves.

13

Musical score for measure 13:

- Top staff: Treble clef, 4 sharps. Notes: $\# \text{E}^{\text{o}}$, F^{o} , G^{o} , A^{o} , B^{o} , C^{o} .
- Middle staff: Treble clef, 4 sharps. Notes: $\# \text{D}^{\text{o}}$, E^{o} , F^{o} , G^{o} , A^{o} , B^{o} .
- Bottom staff: Bass clef, 4 sharps. Notes: D^{o} , $\# \text{E}^{\text{o}}$, $\# \text{F}^{\text{o}}$, $\# \text{G}^{\text{o}}$, A^{o} , $\# \text{B}^{\text{o}}$.

14

Musical score for measure 14:

- Top staff: Treble clef, 5 sharps. Notes: $\# \text{E}^{\text{o}}$, F^{o} , G^{o} , A^{o} , B^{o} , C^{o} .
- Middle staff: Treble clef, 5 sharps. Notes: $\# \text{D}^{\text{o}}$, $\# \text{E}^{\text{o}}$, F^{o} , G^{o} , $\# \text{A}^{\text{o}}$, $\# \text{B}^{\text{o}}$.
- Bottom staff: Bass clef, 5 sharps. Notes: $\# \text{D}^{\text{o}}$, $\# \text{E}^{\text{o}}$, $\# \text{F}^{\text{o}}$, $\# \text{G}^{\text{o}}$, $\# \text{A}^{\text{o}}$, $\# \text{B}^{\text{o}}$.

15

Musical score for measure 15:

- Top staff: Treble clef, 5 sharps. Notes: $\# \text{D}^{\text{o}}$, 8va , E^{o} , 8va , F^{o} , $\# \text{G}^{\text{o}}$, $\# \text{A}^{\text{o}}$, B^{o} .
- Middle staff: Treble clef, 5 sharps. Notes: $\# \text{D}^{\text{o}}$, $\# \text{E}^{\text{o}}$, F^{o} , $\# \text{G}^{\text{o}}$, $\# \text{A}^{\text{o}}$, B^{o} , $\# \text{C}^{\text{o}}$.
- Bottom staff: Bass clef, 5 sharps. Notes: $\# \text{D}^{\text{o}}$, 8vb , $\# \text{E}^{\text{o}}$, $\# \text{F}^{\text{o}}$, $\# \text{G}^{\text{o}}$, $\# \text{A}^{\text{o}}$.

16

Musical score for measure 16. The top staff (treble clef) has a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature. It contains a single note on the first line. The bottom staff (bass clef) has a common time signature and contains notes on the second and third lines.

17

Musical score for measure 17. The top staff (treble clef) has a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature. It contains notes on the first and second lines. The bottom staff (bass clef) has a common time signature and contains notes on the second and third lines. A dynamic instruction '8va' is placed above the top staff.

18 *tacet*

Musical score for measure 18. The top staff (treble clef) has a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature. It contains notes on the first and second lines. The bottom staff (bass clef) has a common time signature and contains notes on the second and third lines. A dynamic instruction '*tacet*' is placed above the top staff.

III

19 *ensemble*

piano

Measure 19 consists of two staves. The top staff, labeled "piano", has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The bottom staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The music consists of eighth-note patterns.

20

Measure 20 consists of two staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The bottom staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The music consists of eighth-note patterns.

21

Measure 21 consists of three staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The middle staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The bottom staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The music consists of eighth-note patterns.

22

Music for measure 22:

- Top staff: Open circle (F#), Open circle (A), Open circle (C#), Open circle (E#), Open circle (G#), Open circle (B).
- Middle staff: Open circle (D#), Open circle (F#), Open circle (A#), Open circle (C#), Open circle (E#), Open circle (G#).
- Bottom staff: Open circle (B), Open circle (D#), Open circle (F#), Open circle (A#).

23

Music for measure 23:

- Top staff: Open circle (D#), Open circle (F#), Open circle (A#), Open circle (C#), Open circle (E#), Open circle (G#).
- Middle staff: Open circle (B), Open circle (D#), Open circle (F#), Open circle (A#), Open circle (C#), Open circle (E#).
- Bottom staff: Open circle (G#), Open circle (B), Open circle (D#), Open circle (F#), Open circle (A#), Open circle (C#).

8va

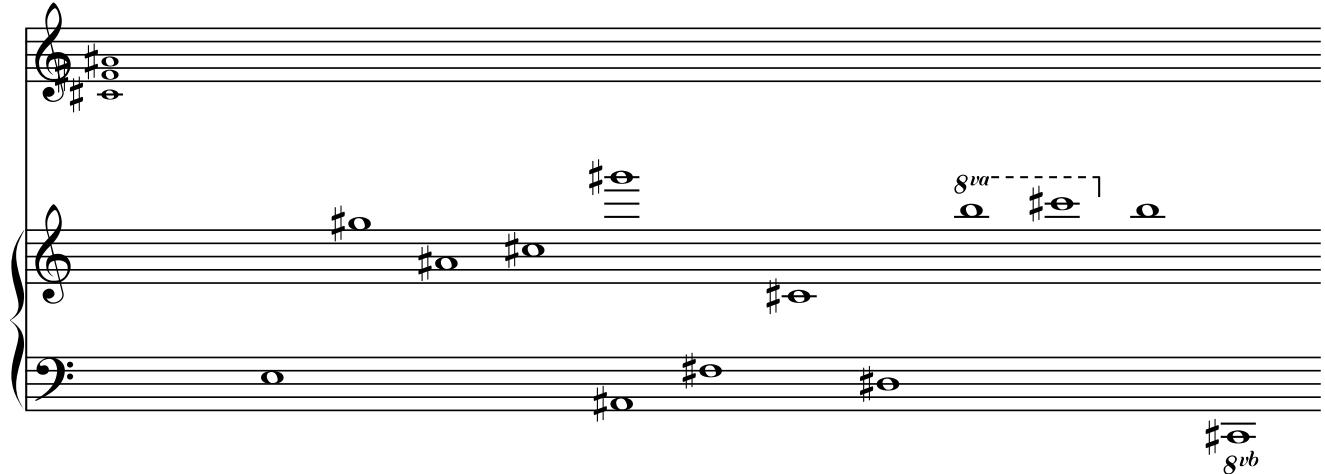
24

Music for measure 24:

- Top staff: Open circle (F#), Open circle (A), Open circle (C#), Open circle (E#), Open circle (G#), Open circle (B).
- Middle staff: Open circle (D#), Open circle (F#), Open circle (A), Open circle (C#), Open circle (E#), Open circle (G#).
- Bottom staff: Open circle (B), Open circle (D#), Open circle (F#), Open circle (A), Open circle (C#), Open circle (E#).

8va *8vb*

25



Musical score for measure 25:

Top staff: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Initial note: F#.

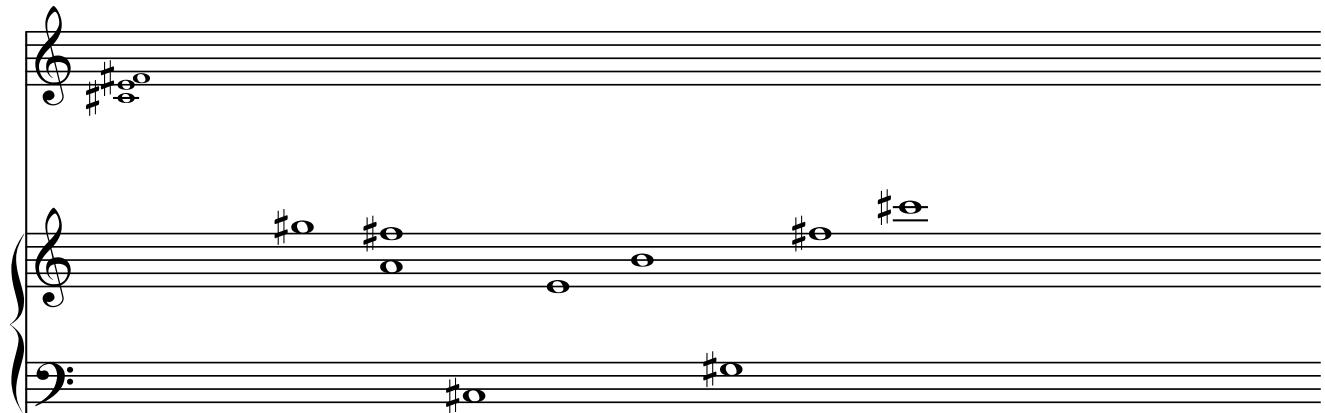
Middle staff: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Notes: C, D, E, G, A.

Bass staff: Bass clef. Notes: C, D, E, G, A.

Bottom staff: Bass clef. Notes: C, D, E, G, A.

Text: *8va* (above the top staff), *8vb* (below the bottom staff).

26



Musical score for measure 26:

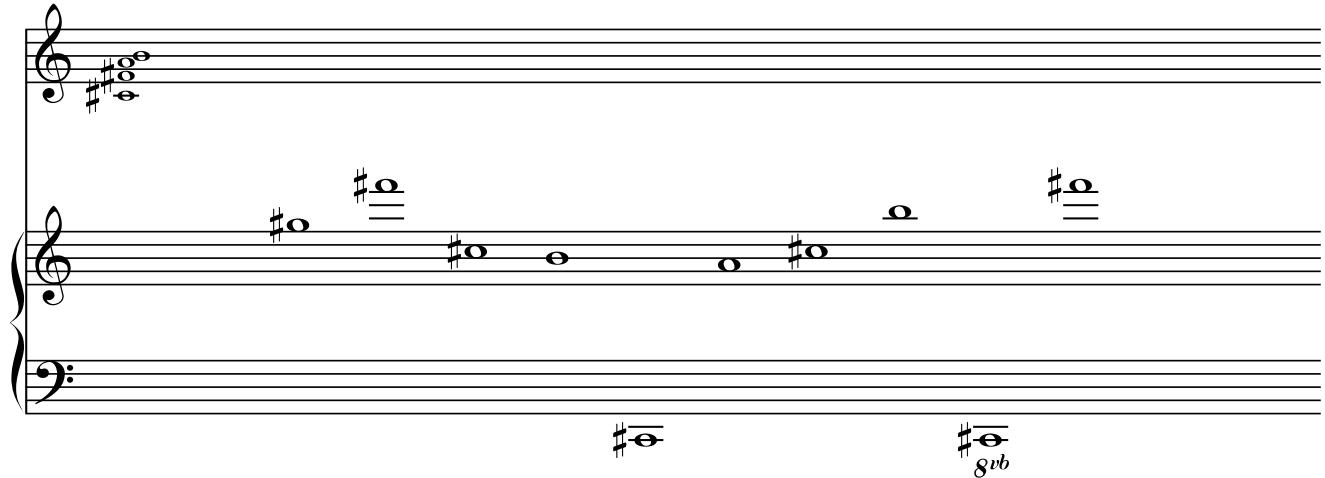
Top staff: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Initial note: F#.

Middle staff: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Notes: C, D, E, G, A.

Bass staff: Bass clef. Notes: C, D, E, G, A.

Bottom staff: Bass clef. Notes: C, D, E, G, A.

27



Musical score for measure 27:

Top staff: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Initial note: F#.

Middle staff: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Notes: C, D, E, G, A.

Bass staff: Bass clef. Notes: C, D, E, G, A.

Bottom staff: Bass clef. Notes: C, D, E, G, A.

Text: *8vb* (below the bottom staff).

28

Musical score for measure 28. The top staff shows a single note on the A line. The middle staff shows notes on the D and G lines. The bottom staff shows notes on the C and F lines. Pedal markings are present at the end of each staff.

29

Musical score for measure 29. The top staff shows a single note on the A line. The middle staff shows notes on the D, G, and C lines. The bottom staff shows notes on the F and B lines. Pedal markings are present at the end of each staff.

30

Musical score for measure 30. The top staff shows a single note on the A line. The middle staff shows notes on the D, G, and C lines. The bottom staff shows notes on the F and B lines. Pedal markings are present at the end of each staff.

