

FELDMAN SONNETS

THREE SONGS FOR TENOR AND GUITAR
TO POETRY BY IRVING FELDMAN
(2020)

DANIEL PESCA

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

**COMMISSIONED BY ZACH FINKELSTEIN
DEDICATED TO ZACH FINKELSTEIN AND DIETER HENNINGS**

DURATION: 10 MINUTES

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Forgetting

What was I at twenty? there
In the city streets, winding frown
Of the twilit beast of stone, where
The bodies of youths were drizzling down.

What was I then? I forget.
The falling mystery of my breath
Stands in eyeless walls of regret.
City, incarnation of death!

I sit amid my mortal rain.
Although like Theseus I fought,
I have become what I have slain.

My lamp is glowing red and grave.
But darkness is a greater thought
And seeks me through the cave.

Melancholy

The wind tore the sky to tatters
Above the stone bridges of the Seine,
That winter day, the driven rain
Leaned down in long ladders.

And my eye, suspended between
The promised power, the murdered form,
Beheld the luxury of storm,
The pathos of the sighing scene.

Wind, through shreds of greyness scream
And crack the saucers of the stream!
I could not fall, could not rise.

The thought of death, the wind's sieve,
Gathered all I could not live
And all the rest shook down in cries.

Division

The world is parted where I pursue
The horizon's river in its flight.
And now its sadness like a night
Is darkening the brown, the blue.

Such a line a child might tie
Across the whiteness of a plane,
And then with godly paint ordain:
Let this be earth, let this be sky.

For me, the line I cannot cross.
In exile, mourning I endure
Every dying, every loss.

My eye runs on! my heart clings.
I wait upon the blackened shore,
Remembering the time of kings.

Irving Feldman

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To my friends Zach Finkelstein and Dieter Hennings

FELDMAN SONNETS

for tenor and guitar

I. FORGETTING

Poems by IRVING FELDMAN

DANIEL PESCA

2021

Freely, rhetorical ♩=88 **Moderately flowing** ♩=76

rit. *f* *p*

What was I at twen-ty?

f, freely, resonant *l.v.* *p*

4 *p, hushed*

There, in the ci-ty streets, win - ding frown of the twi - lit

mp *p*

7 *mf*

beast of stone when the

mf *p*

10 *f, rubato*

bo - dies of youths were driz - zling

mf *f, rubato*

13 *mp*

down.

p, in time *espr.* *mf, full*

17 **Freely, rhetorical** ♩=83 *f* **Moderately flowing** ♩=76 *p*

What was I then? I for -

rit. *poco*

f, freely, resonant *l.v.* *mp*

20 *pp*

get. The fal - ling my - ste - ry of my

pp, gently

23 *mf*

breath Stands in the eye - less walls of re -

mp *p* *mf*

26 *mf, with power*

gret. Ci - ty, in - car -

p *mf*

29 *molto f*

na - tion of death!

molto f

31 *slowing*

mf *f, heavy* *p*

35 **Slower** ♩=63

p, legato, wistful

I sit a -

l.v. pp, lontano *l.v.* *p, light & flowing*

mid my mor - tal rain.

mp *pp* *p*

Al-though like The - se-us I fought.

mp poco marc. *mf*

pp *poco mp* *mfp* *with urgency*

I have be - come what I have

mf, più legato

mf espr. *resonant* *f, emphatic* *mf*

49 *f* **allarg.** **a tempo**

8 slain.

ff, intense, driving but not rushing *sim.* *sempre f*

rit. **Slow; pensive** ♩=40

mf *f* *p sub.* *espr.* *p*

54 *p, molto legato, contemplative*

8 My lamp is glow - ing red and grave. But

sim.

57

8 dark - ness is a grea - ter thought — and seeks

pp *p* *mf* *p*

60 *poco rall.* *a tempo* *pp*

me through the cave.

pp but resonant *poco*

62 *rit.* - - - - -

p *pp* *pp*

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II. Melancholy

Restless ♩=112

f, with power

The wind tore the

p, smooth & flowing *sim.* *sempre p*

mf, more legato

5 sky to tat ters. A - bove the stone brid - ges of the

mp

f sub.

9 Seine, That win-ter day, the dri ven rain

13

Lean'd down in long lad ders.

17 *p, legato*

8 And my eye, sus - pen - ded

pp

20 *f, with power*

8 be-tween the pro-mis'd power, the mur - der'd

mf

23 *mp* *p*

8 form, Be-held the lu - xu-ry of storm,

p *pp*

26 *f, plaintive*

8 The pa - thos of the

fp *f, full*

poco ritenuto (♩=104) **accel.**

29 *p*

sigh - - - ing scene.

p

32 **a tempo** ♩=112

molto ***ff, violent & abrupt*** *p, dry*

35 **molto rit.** Freely ♩ = c. 76 **a tempo** ♩=112 / ♩ = 74

ff *resonant* *f, energetic, rhythmic* *sim.*

Wind, through shreds of grey-ness scream and

39 ***fp***

ff *f* ***fp*** *mfp* *p, dry*

crack the sauc - ers of the stream!

43 **halting drastically** **Slow, free** ♩=69

p *mp*

I could not fall, could not

mf *p* *espr.* *mf*

47 **senza misura**
around the same tempo

pp, heavy *pp, dreamy & flexible* *l.v.* *ppp*

rise. **rit.** The thought of death, the

51 **Tempo I** ♩=112

mf *mp, legato, espr.*

wind's sieve, Gath-er'd all I

mf *sim.* *p*

dramatically **Broad, free**
f, emphatic

could not live. And all the

f

a tempo, then immediately slowing
(♩=112)

a tempo, then immediately slowing

57

rest _____ shook down _____ in

mf _____ *p* _____ *mp* _____ *pp*

a tempo

slowing until the end

59

cries. _____ *ppp*

p _____ *pp* _____ *ppp* _____ *poco*

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III. Division

Very slow ♩=58 *f, forceful*

The world is par ted, is par - ted, is

ff, violent, noisy, resonant *l.v. sempre* *sim.*

4 par - ted, is par - ted.

piu ff *meno f*

8 **Very freely** **In time** *p, with intensity*

The

mf *pp*

11 world is par- ted where I pur - sue The ho-

p 6 3 6

14 *mp, molto legato* *p*

ri - zon's ri - ver in its flight.

mp 6 3 6 6 *p* 6 3

17 *mf, molto espr.*

And now its sad - ness like a

espr. 6 4 3 4 *mf* *più p*

8 *p* *pp*

night is dar - ke ning the brown, the blue.

3 6 *p* *pp* *pp, resonant*

long *p, simple, innocent*

Such a line a child might tie a - cross the white - ness

long *poco* *p, simply* *poco a poco cresc.*

25 *mf*

of a plane _____ and then with god - ly paint or-dain:

mfp *mfp* *mfp*

28 **poco stringendo**

sempre cresc. *marc.*

30 **a tempo (very broad)**
f, broad, commanding

Let this be earth, let this be sky.

f *più cresc.* *sim.*

32 *ff, desperate* *meno f*

For me, the line I can-not cross, I can-not cross, I

ff *più cresc.* *ff poss.*

35 *mf, heavy* **ritenuto**

can-not cross, I can - not cross.

meno f *mf* *più decresc.* *mp* *p*

38 **Very freely** **In time** *pp*

In ex - - - ile,

mp *pp*

41 *p* *mp, legato, molto espr.*

mour-ning I en-dure e - v'ry dy -

p *mp*

44 *p* *espr.*

ing, e-v'ry loss. My

p

47 *mf, molto espr.* *più p*

8 eye runs on! my heart clings.

mf *più p*

49 *rall.* *a tempo* *pp*

8 I wait u - pon the bla - cken'd

mf espr. *pp, resonant, like an abyss*

51 **dying away until the end**

8 shore, Re - mem - be - ring the time of kings.

sim.

55 long

VII long

ppp