

William Grosvenor Neil

Voci dell'Ombra

for soprano and piano

(2020)



TheComposerStudio.Com, LLC

© 2020 by William Grosvenor Neil

All Rights Reserved

William Grosvenor Neil
Voci dell'Ombra

for soprano and piano
(2020)

TheComposerStudio.Com, LLC
© 2020 William Grosvenor Neil
All Rights Reserved

Contents

1. Mille volte il di moro *1*
2. Correte, amanti, a prova *8*
3. Itene, o miei sospiri *15*
4. Tu m'uccidi, o crudele *21*
5. Languisce al fin *25*
6. Mercè grido piangendo *31*

English translations by Nick Ceramella

Mille volte il dì moro.
E voi, empi sospiri,
non fate, oimè, che in sospirando io spiri?
E tu, alma crudele, se il mio duolo
t'affligge sì, che non ten'fuggi a volo?
Ahi, che sol Morte al mio duol, aspro e rio,
divien pietosa e ancide il viver mio!
Così, dunque, i sospiri e l'alma mia
sono ver me spietati e morte pia.

Correte, amanti, a prova,
a mirar meco quello
onde s'adorna il mondo e si fa bello!
Vista dolce et acerba in cui si trova
virtù di forza tale
c'or breve fa la vita, or immortale.

Itene, o miei sospiri,
precipitate'l volo,
a lei che m'è cagion d'aspri martiri,
ditele, per pietà, del mio gran duolo:
ch'ormai ella mi sia
come bella ancor pia,
che l'amaro mia pianto
cangerò, lieto, in amoroso canto.

Tu m'uccidi, o crudele,
d'amor empia homicida,
e vuoi ch'io taccia e l'io morir non grida?
Ahi, non si può tacer l'aspro martire
che va innanzi al morire
ond'io ne vo gridando:
"Oimè ch'io moro amando!"

Languisce al fin chi de la vita parte
e di morte il dolore
l'affligge sì ch'è in crude pene more.
Ahi, che quello son io,
dolcissimo cor mio,
che da voi parto e, per mia crudel sorte,
la vita lascio e me ne vado a morte.

"Mercè!" grido piangendo
ma c'hi m'ascolta?
Ahi lasso! io vengo meno.
Morrò dunque tacendo.
Deh, per pietade, almeno,
dolce del mio cor tesoro,
potessi dirti, pria ch'io mora: "Io moro".

A thousand times a day I die,
and you, wicked sighs,
don't you make me, alàs, die, sighing?
And you, cruel soul, if my grief
Afflicts you so, why don't you fly away?
Ah, only Death alone, takes pity
on my harsh and bitter grief and kills my life!
Thus, then, my sighs and soul
are ruthless towards me, and Death merciful.

Hurry up, lovers, see for yourselves,
look with me how
the world adorns itself and beautiful it becomes!
A sweet and bitter sight endowed with
such a mighty virtue
which in a moment shortens life and makes it immortal.

Oh, my sighs go
swiftly fly to her.
who's the cause of my bitter torment.
tell her, I beg you, of my great grief,
that now, at last that she may be
as merciful as she is beautiful,
so that my bitter tears I may
exchange for a joyful song of love.

Oh cruel one, you are killing me.
You evil love-slayer.
And you want me to keep quiet and not cry out that I am dying.
Ah, the bitter martyr can not keep quiet
that he is going to meet death.
That's why I go about screaming:
"Alàs I'm dying of love!"

One languishes at the end who departs from life.
And it is the pain of death
that torments him.
thus, in bitter pain he dies.
Ah, this is me,
my sweetest heart,
departing from you is my cruel fate,
life I leave and go to death.

"Mercy!" I scream, crying
but who hears me?
Alas! I flake out.
I'll die then silently.
Deh, if only out of pity,
oh treasure of my heart,
could I tell you, before I died, "I'm dying".

Program Notes: Voci dell'Ombra (Voices from the Shadow) The madrigals of the Renaissance composer, Carlo Gesualdo da Venosa, have interested me for some time with their articulate mode of expression and their rich and mysterious musical textures. I have chosen six madrigals from the composer's fifth book of madrigals to set for piano and solo soprano voice. Above all, my goal was to capture the expression and drama of text found in Gesualdo's five part vocal writing, selecting freely from the each of the voices to construct my recomposition of the music for a single voice. I also desired to create a piano accompaniment that orchestrated the harmonic and rhythmic contrasts that are so prevalent in these Madrigals. The end result, stylistically, spans the pre-renaissance and post-renaissance periods of music with my own predilection for complex textures and sonorities found in my own original music. These pieces were composed in collaboration with the Italian-Mongolian soprano, Ayana Sambuu, who was so generous with her comments regarding the setting of the Italian words and vocal technique required to perform the pieces. Finally, I am appreciative of Nick Ceramella for his translations of the texts into English and his assistance in interpreting the meaning of the Italian words.

Duration: ca. 22 minutes

Dedicated to Ayana Sambuu

Mille volte al di moro

(based on madrigal No. 7 of book VI by Carlo Gesualdo)

William Grosvenor Neil

$\text{♩} = 60$

legato

p

Ped.

6

mf

Mil - le vol - te, il di mo - ro,

8va

p

Ped.

12

mo - ro, e voi, _____ em - - - pi so - spi - ri,

8va

8

Ped.

17 *f*

non fa - te, oi - mè, che'in so - spi-ran-do, io spi- ri? che'in so -

22 *mf*

spi-ran-do, io spi- ri? E tu al - ma cru - de - le

8va *p* *8va*

Ped. Ped.

27 *poco rit.* *p*

se, il mio duo - lo t'af - flig - ge si,

p *8vb*

3

33 *f*

che non ten' fug - gi,à

f *p* *mf*

36

vo - - - - -

38 Ped.

lo,

f

39

p Ped.

40 *fpp* $\leq$ *f*⁴

Ahi,

8^{vb} *f*

42

che sol Mor - te, al mio duol a - spro, e ri - o di - vien__

ff *f* *ff* *f*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

48

pie - to - sa

Ped.

52 *f* $\leq$ *ff* *p* *f*

e an - ci - de il _____ vi-ver mi - o!

ff *mf* *p* *legato* *8va*

8vb *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

58 *p* *mf*

co - sì dun - que, i so - spi - ri e l'a - ma

Ped. *Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

63 *mf* *rit.* *p* **A tempo** *p*

mi - - - a so - no ver me spie - ta - ti e Mor - te

p *Ped.* *Ped.*

70 *pp* *f*

pi - a e Mor - te, e

molto legato *8va* *p* *ppp*

ped.

76 *p*

Mor - - te pi - -

(8)

78 *f* *pp*

- - - - - a.

Correte, amanti, a prova

(based on madrigal No. 13 of book V by Carlo Gesulado)

William Grosvenor Neil

81 $\text{♩} = 70$

mf

Cor - re - - - - te,

p

8va

Ped.

85

a - man - ti, a pro - - - -

8va

89

f

- va, a mi - rar me - co

f

Ped.

93

quel - lo, A mir - rar me - co

8va

97

quel - lo On - de s'a - dor - na'il

mp

p

101

mon - do e si fa bel - lo!

f

ritardando

pausa

f

p

tr

106 *p*

Vi - sta dol - ce, vi - sta dol - ce, ed a - cer - ba in

112

cui si tro - va Vir - tu di for - za ta le, di for -

118 *p*

za ta - le C'or bre - ve fa la

122

vi - - ta or im - mor - ta - - - le,

Ped.

126

126

c'or bre - ve fa la vit - ta

p *f*

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 126, 127, and 128. The vocal line (treble clef) has lyrics 'c'or bre - ve fa la vit - ta'. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a continuous sixteenth-note arpeggiated pattern in the right hand, starting at measure 126 and ending at measure 128. The left hand is mostly silent, with a few notes in measure 128. Dynamics range from *p* to *f*. A 'Ped.' marking is at the end of measure 128.

129

129

or im - mor - ta -

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 129 and 130. The vocal line (treble clef) has lyrics 'or im - mor - ta -'. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues the arpeggiated pattern in the right hand. The left hand has a melodic line in measure 129 and is silent in measure 130. Dynamics range from *p* to *f*.

131

131

- - le

f *f*

Ped. Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 131 and 132. The vocal line (treble clef) has lyrics '- - le'. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues the arpeggiated pattern in the right hand. The left hand is silent in measure 131 and has a melodic line in measure 132. Dynamics range from *f* to *f*. 'Ped.' markings are at the end of measure 131 and the end of measure 132.

134 *p*

le. C'or

f *p*

137 *f*

bre - ve fa la vi - ta or im-mor - ta - -

f

Ped.

141 *p*

- le, c'or bre - ve fa la

p

f *mf*

12

144

vit - ta or im - mor - ta -

f *p*

Ped.

f

147

- - - - - le

f *f*

Ped. Ped.

150

f

Ped.

Itene, o miei sospiri

William Grosvenor Neil

(based on madrigal No.3 of book V by Carlo Gesualdo)

13
152 ♩=70

mf

13
152 ♩=70
mf
pp
f
8va

156

156
te ne, o miei so - spi - ri,
f
8va

160

160
Pre - ci - pi - ta - te'l vo - lo,
f
8va
Ped.

164

164
pre - ci - pi - ta - te'l vo - lo,
p
8va
Ped.

167

f 14

pre - ci - pi - ta - - te'l vo - - - -

mf

171

-lo, A lui, a lui che m'è ca -

f *p* Ped.

175

gion d'a - - spri mar - ti - ri,

8va

15 *f*

178

d'a - - - - apri d'a - spri mar - -

8va

183

- ti - ri,

(8)

f *p*

188

p *f* *p*

Di - te - le di - te - le per pie - tà del mio gran duo - lo gran duo - lo:

194

ch'or mai el - la mi si - a co - - - me

8va

200 *f* *p*

bel - la an-cor pi - a, an-cor pi - a,

f *subito p*

206 *p* Ped. _____

Che l'a - mar - o mia pian - - - to

pp

212 *p* *f*

Con - ge - rò lie - to, Con - ge - rò in

p *f*

215

a - - - mo - ro - so

tr

17

218

can - - - - - to, in a -

p

ff

p

tr

Ped.

223

- mo - ro - - - - so, in a - mor - o - - so

p

227

can - - - - -

f

f

pp

231

Musical score for measures 231-234. The score is written for a single melodic line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo/mood is indicated by *pp* (pianissimo) at the top right and bottom right. The lyrics "to." are written below the first measure of the piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment features a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand and a more complex melodic line in the right hand, including a trill in measure 234. The melodic line consists of a half note, a quarter note, and a half note, with a trill in the final measure.

Tu m'uccidi, o crudele

(based on madrigal No. 15 of book V by Carlo Gesualdo)

19

William Grosvenor Neil

$\text{♩} = 60$ *p*

legato Tu m'uc - ci - di, o

mf
più mosso

240 *f*

cru - de - le, d'A - mor em-pia ho - mi - ci - da,

f *p* *8va*

244 *f*

ho-mi-ci - da, ho - mi - ci - da, ho -

f *p* *f* *p* *f*

Ped.

248

- mi - ci - - - - da,

p *pp*

252 *pp* *p*

E vuoi ch'io tac-cia e'l mio mo - rit

257 *f*

non gri da? Ahi non si può ta-cer l'a - spro mar-ti -

263 *p*

- re Che va, in-nan - zi, al mo - ri - re, al mo - ri - re

268 $\text{♩} = 70$ **Meno mosso** *mf*

Ond' - io ne vo ond' io ne vo

21 *f*

271

gri - dan - do: gri-dan - do:

275 *p rit.* *a tempo* *mf*

"Oi - mè oi mè ch'io mor - o ch'io mor - o a-

281

man - do! a - man - do! a - man - do!

p

8^{vb}

284

f

a - man - - - do! a - mand - - do!"

f

8^{vb}

Languisce al fin

William Grosvenor Neil

23

288

♩ = 70

(based on madrigal No.10 of book V by Carlo Gesualdo)

p Lan - - -

f *p* *f*

Ped.

pp gui-sce al fin,

p *f* *p*

Ped.

p *f* *p* chi da la vi - - - ta par - - -

p *f*

Ped.

298

*pp**f*

- - - - te, E di mor -

pp *f*

Ped.

301

*p**f*

te il do - lo - - - re do - lo - - - re

p *f* *pp*

Ped.

304

*p**p*

l'a - flig -

p *f* *pp*

Ped.

307

ge si che in cru - de pe -

p *f* *p* Ped.

310

ne mo - - re, Ahi, che

f Ped.

313

quel - - lo son i - - - o,

pp Ped.

316

f *p*

Dol - cis - si - mo cor mi - o,

f *p* Ped. *p*

319 *f*

Che da voi par - to, che da voi

f

Ped.

322 *p*

par - - - to,

p

pp

Ped.

325 *p*

e, per mia cru - - - del

p

Ped.

327 *f*

sor - - te, La vi - ta

f *ff*

8^{vb} Ped. 8^{vb} Ped.

330

la - - - sci - o

p *f*

334 *sfp* *f* *pp*

e me ne va - do a mor - - te.

pp *mf* *ff* *pp*

8^{va} Ped. Ped.

Mercè grido piangendo

28

(based on madrigal No. 11 of book V by Carlo Gesualdo)

William Grosvenor Neil

$\text{♩} = 60$ *f*

"Mer - - - - -

f

341 Ped. *cè!"*

ff

342 *ff* Ped. *gri* - - - - -

f Ped. *do* *mf* *pian* - - -

ff Ped.

344

gen - - - - - do

pp

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 344 and 345. Measure 344 features a vocal line with a half note G4 (labeled 'gen') and a whole note G4 (labeled 'do') tied to the next measure. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a steady eighth-note pattern in the left hand. Measure 345 continues the piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *pp* at the start and *ff* at the end. A pedal point is indicated by 'Ped.' with a line extending across the measures.

345

ff

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 345 and 346. Measure 345 continues the piano accompaniment. Measure 346 features a vocal line with a half note G4 (labeled 'Ma') and a whole note G4 (labeled 'Ma') tied to the next measure. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern. Dynamics include *ff* at the end of measure 345 and *mf* at the start of measure 346. A pedal point is indicated by 'Ped.' with a line extending across the measures.

346

Ma

pp

Ped.

ff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 346 and 347. Measure 346 features a vocal line with a half note G4 (labeled 'Ma') and a whole note G4 (labeled 'Ma') tied to the next measure. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern. Dynamics include *pp* at the start and *ff* at the end. A pedal point is indicated by 'Ped.' with a line extending across the measures.

347

chi m'a - -

ff

Ped.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 347 and 348. Measure 347 features a vocal line with a half note G4 (labeled 'chi') and a whole note G4 (labeled 'm'a') tied to the next measure. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern. Dynamics include *ff* at the end. A pedal point is indicated by 'Ped.' with a line extending across the measures.

348

scol - - - - - ta?

pp *Ped.* *ff*

349

mf Ma

350

f chi m'a - - -

Ped.

351

scol - - - - - ta?

p

*Ped.**p*

352

Musical score for measures 352-353. Measure 352: Treble clef, G4 dotted quarter, rest. Bass clef, piano accompaniment. Measure 353: Treble clef, piano accompaniment. Bass clef, piano accompaniment.

353

ff *> pp* *p* *pp*

Ahi - - las - so!, io ven-go me - no;

pp

8va

Red.

Musical score for measures 353-358. Measure 353: Treble clef, Ahi - - las - so!, io ven-go me - no;. Bass clef, piano accompaniment. Measure 354: Treble clef, rest. Bass clef, piano accompaniment. Measure 355: Treble clef, rest. Bass clef, piano accompaniment. Measure 356: Treble clef, rest. Bass clef, piano accompaniment. Measure 357: Treble clef, rest. Bass clef, piano accompaniment. Measure 358: Treble clef, rest. Bass clef, piano accompaniment.

359

p

Mor - rò mor-rò dun - que ta-cen - do.

pp *p*

Musical score for measures 359-362. Measure 359: Treble clef, Mor - rò mor-rò dun - que ta-cen - do;. Bass clef, piano accompaniment. Measure 360: Treble clef, rest. Bass clef, piano accompaniment. Measure 361: Treble clef, rest. Bass clef, piano accompaniment. Measure 362: Treble clef, rest. Bass clef, piano accompaniment.

363

mp

Deh, per pie - ta - de'al - me - no,

8va

Musical score for measures 363-366. Measure 363: Treble clef, Deh, per pie - ta - de'al - me - no;. Bass clef, piano accompaniment. Measure 364: Treble clef, piano accompaniment. Bass clef, piano accompaniment. Measure 365: Treble clef, piano accompaniment. Bass clef, piano accompaniment. Measure 366: Treble clef, piano accompaniment. Bass clef, piano accompaniment.

367 *mp*

Dol - ce del cor te - so - - ro,

pp

371 *Ped.*

Po-tes-si dir - ti pria ch'lo mo - ra, pria ch'io mo - ra:

377 *p*

Io

p

8va

378 *Ped.*

mo - - - - ro,

8

Ped.

379

Musical score for measures 379-380. The vocal line (treble clef) features a half note G#4 with the syllable "Io" and a half note A4 with the syllable "mo", followed by a long horizontal line. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand, with a dashed line above the right hand staff.

380 Ped.

Musical score for measures 380-381. The vocal line (treble clef) features a half note G#4 with the syllable "ro," and a half note A4 with the syllable "Io", followed by a long horizontal line. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand, with a dashed line above the right hand staff.

381 Ped.

Musical score for measures 381-382. The vocal line (treble clef) features a half note G#4 with the syllable "mo" and a half note A4 with the syllable "ro,", followed by a long horizontal line. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand, with a dashed line above the right hand staff.

382 Ped.

Musical score for measures 382-383. The vocal line (treble clef) features a half note G#4 with the syllable "Io", followed by a long horizontal line. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a continuous eighth-note pattern in the left hand, with a dashed line above the right hand staff.

Ped.

383

mo - - - - ro,

(8)

mf

384

Io

(8)

Red.

385

mo - - - - ro,

(8)

mf *f*

Red.

386 *f*

Io mo - - - -

Ped.

387

ro, Io

Ped.

388 *p*

mo ro, mo ro,

Ped.

389 *mf*

Io

p *mf*

Ped.

390

mo - - - - ro,

p *mf*

Ped.

391 *f*

Io

p *f*

Ped.

37

392

musical score for measures 392-393. The vocal line (treble clef) has a whole note with a sharp sign, followed by a long rest. The lyrics are "mo - - - ro,". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a continuous eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A dashed line with the number (8) is below the vocal line. A "Ped." marking is at the end of the piano part.

393

musical score for measures 393-394. The vocal line (treble clef) has a whole note with a sharp sign, followed by a long rest. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues the eighth-note pattern. A "Ped." marking is at the end of the piano part.

394

musical score for measures 394-395. The vocal line (treble clef) has a whole note with a sharp sign, followed by a long rest. The lyrics are "Io mo - - -". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues the eighth-note pattern. A "Ped." marking is at the end of the piano part.

395

musical score for measures 395-396. The vocal line (treble clef) has a whole note with a sharp sign, followed by a long rest. The lyrics are "ro,". The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues the eighth-note pattern. A "Ped." marking is at the end of the piano part.

Ped.

396

pausa ff

lo mo - - - - -

ff

Ped.

398

ro!

8va

The musical score is written for piano and voice. The first system (measures 396-397) features a piano introduction with a left hand playing a series of chords and a right hand playing a series of chords. The voice part enters with the lyrics 'lo mo' and continues with a series of notes. The second system (measures 398-400) features a piano introduction with a left hand playing a series of chords and a right hand playing a series of chords. The voice part enters with the lyrics 'ro!' and continues with a series of notes. The score includes dynamic markings 'ff' and 'ff', and a 'Ped.' marking. The first system ends with a double bar line. The second system ends with a double bar line.