

Janet Graham

Persephone

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This piano piece, written in 1980, was comissioned by Philip Mead.

The Homeric "Hymn to Demeter" tells how Persephone was carried off by Pluto, Lord of the Dead, to be his queen in the underworld. Persephone's mother Demeter, the corn goddess, vowed that she would allow no crops to grow until Persephone should be returned to her. After an intervention from Zeus, Pluto agreed to allow Persephone to spend only one third (some versions of the myth say half) of each year in the underworld, from which she would return each spring when plants were beginning to grow. Persephone is thus a mythical personification of the seed, which is buried under the earth during winter before it can come to life in spring.

for Philip Mead
Persephone

Janet Graham

Slow $\text{♩} = 54$

The musical score consists of four staves of piano music, each with a bass clef and a dynamic range from mf to pp . The score is divided into measures numbered 1 through 6.

- Measure 1:** The left hand plays a sustained note at mf , while the right hand plays eighth-note chords at pp . The instruction "Una corda" is written above the left hand staff. The measure ends with a fermata over the right hand's notes.
- Measure 2:** The left hand continues eighth-note chords at pp , with a dynamic marking "8vb" below it. The right hand begins a sixteenth-note pattern. The instruction "Ped." is written below the left hand staff. The measure ends with a fermata over the right hand's notes, followed by the instruction "full ped".
- Measure 3:** The left hand continues eighth-note chords at pp . The right hand begins a sixteenth-note pattern. The instruction "(8)" is written below the left hand staff. The measure ends with a fermata over the right hand's notes.
- Measure 4:** The left hand continues eighth-note chords at pp . The right hand begins a sixteenth-note pattern. The instruction "(8)" is written below the left hand staff. The measure ends with a fermata over the right hand's notes.
- Measure 5:** The left hand continues eighth-note chords at pp . The right hand begins a sixteenth-note pattern. The instruction "(8)" is written below the left hand staff. The measure ends with a fermata over the right hand's notes.
- Measure 6:** The left hand continues eighth-note chords at pp . The right hand begins a sixteenth-note pattern. The instruction "(8)" is written below the left hand staff. The measure ends with a fermata over the right hand's notes, followed by the instruction "left hand".

Musical score for piano, page 7, measures 1-2. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses a bass clef and a 5/4 time signature. Measure 1 starts with a rest followed by six eighth-note chords (B-flat major) over a sustained bass note. Measure 2 begins with a forte dynamic (f) and a sixteenth-note cluster. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and a 5/4 time signature. It features eighth-note chords and a sustained bass note. Measure 2 includes dynamics (f, p, mp, tr), performance instructions (chromatic cluster, loco), and measure numbers (3, 7).

Musical score for page 9, measures 7-10. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature. Measure 7 starts with a dynamic *p*. Measure 8 begins with a dynamic *mf*. Measure 9 starts with a dynamic *mp*, followed by *mp (loco)*. Measure 10 ends with a dynamic *f*. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature. Measure 7 starts with a dynamic *f*. Measure 8 begins with a dynamic *mp*. Measure 9 starts with a dynamic *mp*, followed by *f*. Measure 10 ends with a dynamic *f*. Various performance instructions like *tr* (trill) and *8vb* (octave below) are present.

Musical score for piano, page 11, measures 11-12. The score consists of two staves. The upper staff uses a treble clef and a 5/4 time signature. It features a melodic line with various dynamics and performance instructions like 'chromatic cluster' and 'mf (loco)'. The lower staff uses a bass clef and a 5/4 time signature. It includes a dynamic 'f' and a measure number '(8)'. The score is annotated with various markings such as 'tr.', 'mp', '3', 'f', '5', and '6'.

Musical score for page 12, measures 12-13. The top staff is in treble clef, 6/4 time, with a melodic line featuring grace notes and dynamic markings *mp*, *mf*, and *6*. The bottom staff is in bass clef, 6/4 time, with a sustained note and a trill, also marked with *6*. Measure 13 begins with a dynamic marking *8vb* and *mf*.

13

chromatic cluster

5

mp

tr...

mf

(8) *(quick tremolo)*

4

14

chromatic cluster

chromatic cluster

mf

8vb

tr...

3

f

tr...

3

5

7

(8) *f* *mf*

16

Tre corde

chromatic cluster

mf (loco)

6

7

8va

mf

f

tr...

6

tr...

3

5

(loco)

(8) *f*

17

8va

f *mf*

mf

tr...

4

f *ff*

(tr)

4

(8)

5

19

chromatic cluster

8va----- 1

ff

mf

6

6

ff

tr

ff

(8)

5

f

tr

4

4

21

8va

f *3* *6* *mf* *mp*

chromatic cluster

fff mp

mp *mf*

(8)

Musical score for piano, page 1, measures 23-24. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and a bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp. Measure 23 starts with a dynamic *mp*, followed by a trill, then *mf*. Measure 24 begins with a dynamic *8vb*, followed by a trill, then *mp*. Measure 25 starts with a dynamic *mp*, followed by a trill, then *mf*, leading to a final dynamic *f*. Measure 26 concludes with a dynamic *5*. Measure 27 begins with a dynamic *5*.

Musical score for piano, page 10, measures 25-26. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in 5/4 time, treble clef, and the bottom staff is in 5/4 time, bass clef. Measure 25 starts with a dynamic of *mp*. The right hand plays eighth-note chords, and the left hand provides harmonic support. Measure 26 begins with a dynamic of *mf*, continuing the harmonic pattern. The right hand then plays a melodic line with grace notes, while the left hand provides harmonic support. The score includes various dynamics such as *mf*, *tr*, and *3*, and performance instructions like *(loco)* and *8va*.

(8)

26

f

8va

5

mf

8vb

mp

6

mf

8vb

half ped

6

(8)

28

5

tr.

8va

7

3

Una corda

29

8va

tr.

mp

8vb

full ped

6

p

mp

3

6

(8)

31

5

mp

3

3

7

32

$\leq mf$

8^{vb}

p

tr

p

6

6

8^{vb}

p

34

espress.

p

mp

6

3

(8)

36

6

p

pp

p

8^{vb}

38

5

3

40

42

44

46

(8)

49

mp

p

p

full ped

half ped

51

tr

6

3

full ped

half ped

53

p

pp

chromatic cluster

ppp

8va

full ped

half ped

55

tr

8va

full ped

pp

half ped

57

(L.H.) *tr*
ppp

ppp

8va

8vb
full ped

Slower =48

pp

Ped.

8va

pp sotto voce

9

9

11

65

tr.

$\frac{7}{4}$

$\frac{7}{4}$

$\frac{3}{4}$ 3 3

$\frac{6}{4}$

68

8va

$\frac{6}{4}$

$\frac{6}{4}$

pp

$\frac{6}{4}$

$\frac{8}{8}$

$\frac{7}{4}$

69

tr.

$\frac{7}{4}$

$\frac{7}{4}$

$\frac{5}{4}$

$\frac{6}{4}$

71

9

$\frac{6}{4}$

$\frac{6}{4}$

$\frac{9}{4}$

$\frac{6}{4}$

$\frac{4}{4}$

$\frac{6}{4}$

73

74

76 (8)

half ped

ped.

78 (8)

ped.

80 (8)

(loco) (loco) 8va

Ped. Ped. Ped.

82 (8)

(8) (8)

3 3 5

Ped.

85 (8)

(8) (8)

(loco) Ped. Ped. pppp