
Sid Richardson

there is no sleep so deep
for piano

2016

there is no sleep so deep

Instrumentation: Piano solo

Duration: c. 5 minutes 30 seconds

Program note:

there is no sleep so deep takes its title from Samuel Beckett's play *Footfalls*. The play consists primarily of an old woman obsessively pacing up and down the stage. M, the protagonist, stops occasionally to recount a monologue of her slow withdrawal from life, and of her anguished attempts at self-assertion. As the work progresses, she becomes increasingly more bent and more obscured in darkness, finally disappearing in the end.

The script of *Footfalls* opens with M calling to her mother. When a voice offstage responds, M inquires if she was asleep. "Deep asleep. I heard you in my deep sleep. There is no sleep so deep I would not hear you there." I found that beautiful exchange resonated deeply with me.

there is no sleep so deep for piano engages with the text, imagery, and stage directions of *Footfalls* on various levels. The most evident parallels are in the textures: the driving sixteenth-note passages echo M's obsessive footsteps, and the resonant repeated-note figures recall her counting to herself as she walks to and fro "one, two, three..." Harmonic and rhythmic ciphers derived from Beckett's text operate beneath the surface of *there is no sleep so deep*, but essentially the motivation behind the music is my grief over the death of my grandmother, Constance Dubose Jones, who passed away at the age of ninety-five last year. This work is a tombeau for her and a reflection on my own emotional struggles with death and loss.

there is no sleep so deep was written for Conrad Tao's residency at Duke University in March of 2016.

there is no sleep so deep

In Memoriam Constance Dubose Jones

SID RICHARDSON
(b. 1987)

♩ = 60 Lontano

8va -----|

sfp *ppp*

Piano

Ped. _____

♩ = 69 Searching **♩ = 84** **♩ = 100 Energico**

mp *mf* *mp*

Λ senza Ped.

(sempre stacc.)

mf *f*

10

13

15

♩ = 104 - 108 poco più mosso

18

21

♩ = 120 Sweeping

♩ = ♩ (♩ = 60)

3

25

6 5 5

8^{vb} fff

5 5

8^{vb} f ff

ppp lontano

Ped.

♩ = 100 - 108 Energico

29

mp

(sempre stacc.)

f

senza *Ped.*

32

mp

36

f *ff* *f* *f*

40

mp *cresc.*

43

f

46

ff *f*

8^{vb}-----

♩ = 120 Sweeping, as if a continuation

♩ = ♩ (♩ = 60)

49

f *fff* *ff* *Sost.*

5 6 5

8^{vb}-----

52

p lontano sub. *pp* cresc. poco a poco

8va

3

(8)

55

mp 3 poco *f* sub. *pp* cresc. poco a poco 3

3

$\text{♩} = 120$ Furtive

$\text{♩} = \text{♩} \quad (\text{♩} = 60)$

59

mp senza Ped. sub. *p* piano *pp* pianissimo *ppp* lontano

Ped.

8va

8vb

(8)

63

p brillante

(8)

6 $\text{♩} = \text{♩} (\text{♩} = 120)$

(8)

66

loco

pp

mp

pp sub. f sub. p

Ped. senza Ped.

8va

3

5

(8)

70

pp

cresc.

3

4

3

4

73

8va

Sweeping

poco f

8vb

6

5

5

5

ff

fff

8vb

Ped.

$\text{♩} = 100 - 108$

76

f feroce

(8)

Ped. senza Ped.