

our last rehearsal!
first waste

curse took
girls (D)

disposal have
vested
recurs all.

mult cam

I try and try:
no one will let me die
NO ONE WILL LET ME DIE.

WOMAN
ARTISAN
WOMAN
ARTISAN
WOMAN

He said he was happy!
Oh, oh, extremely —
I 'didn't know!
— but doc-related and extremely so.
Forgive me!

The nurse leads the ARTISAN out

ARTISAN
WOMAN

Cut! cut! cut! from de bone:
three thousand on ^{one} sleeve alone ...
I didn't know! I didn't know!

Y.

~~As ^{he} ARTISAN is led out — and with
no break — the COMPOSER + her
assistant breeze in.~~

~~COMPOSER
ASSISTANT
COMPOSER
ASSISTANT
COMPOSER
ASSISTANT
COMPOSER
ASSISTANT
COMPOSER~~

~~This bar, mark con fuoco —
... con fuoco ...
— and here strings pianissimo —
~~the~~ pianissimo ...
— ~~then~~ transport us to a shimmering zone
of pure feeling — the interview —
... and you have ^{reminiscent} Tokyo on the phone ...
Tokyo can wait — ^{but} the wits for —
~~the~~ interviews: — it's a quick call —
→ not thirty minutes from ~~the~~ a
can give the five ^{minutes} final date rehearsal!
Show me the score.~~

premiere

are you are?

Sanjy of - the

not just a risen
rising star
... And you are?



(Left-right) George Benjamin, Martin Crimp, Daniel Jeanneteau and Marie-Christine Soma pictured during production rehearsals at the Théâtre du Jeu de Paume, Aix-en-Provence, in June 2023
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PICTURE A DAY LIKE THIS

Text by
MARTIN CRIMP

Music by
GEORGE BENJAMIN

Scene I – The Page

A WOMAN steps out of the darkness, holding a piece of paper.

Unhurried, but without dragging

Harp

p

E^b F[#] G^b A^b
B^b C^b D^b

WOMAN *pp quasi parlando, semplice*

No soon-er had my child_ start-ed to speak whole sen - ten - ces than he had died.

2

Hp.

Wom.

I wound him in the cu-stom-a-ry silk for burn-ing – was an-gry – but I washed him – washed him – wound him – closed his eyes.

3

Hn.

Hp.

Wom.

1 Very still (♩ = c.48)
a2
pp

But when the wo-men came to take him – take him for burn-ing – I said to them: no. In the first

5

1 Hn.

2 Hn.

Wom.

gar-den ran four streams of life. Quince, al-mond, li-lac, vi-o-let flo-wered. In the deep shade of the

1 Vc. *p dolce*

2 Vc. *p dolce*

Db. *p dolce*