

for Alexander Polzin

From the Garden

for piano

Sidney Corbett (2023)

inesorabile ♩ = 192, ♩ = 96, ♩ = 64, ♩ = 128

The musical score is written for piano in 12/16 time. It consists of 13 measures, divided into five systems. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The tempo/meter is indicated as 'inesorabile ♩ = 192, ♩ = 96, ♩ = 64, ♩ = 128'. The score features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a treble line with chords and melodic fragments. Dynamics include *ppp*, *sfz*, and *pp*. The score is marked with measure numbers 4, 7, 10, and 13.

I have known the sculptor and visual artist Alexander Polzin for many years and in the course of our friendship we discovered that we have both worked independently on projects concerned with the same subject matter: Giordano Bruno, Heiner Müller and many others. So we began to discuss what we might be able to do together and Alexander mentioned Walter Benjamin's text on the painting by Paul Klee, *Angelus Novus: Engel der Geschichte* (*The Angel of History*).

As I began to think about how to approach this text and the painting behind it, one of the strong impulses I felt was helplessness in the face of the inevitable, the storm garnering mountains of rubble and chaotic wreckage, the storm which Benjamin calls 'progress'. And thus I began to think about origins. What is the source of the inexorable descent? The expulsion of the angel from the garden was of course also our own expulsion.

This piece is dedicated to Alexander Polzin.

Sidney Corbett
Schwetzingen, November 2023

Duration: 10 mins. approx.

*First performed on November 9, 2023 at the German Consulate
in San Francisco by Brett Carson*