

INSTRUMENTATION


Voice 1: Soprano / Mezzo-soprano

Voice 2: Bass / Baritone (with a good falsetto)

Duration: c. 7'

*A recording of Threnos, given by Lucy Goldent and Simon Whistly, is available on NMC Debut Disc Magazine
[NMC D219], NMC Recording*

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Temporal Notation: Sections I and II are *avare misura*. The length of each notated sound  is proportional to the length of its tail . As a rough guide only, the notated sounds at the beginning of Section I have a duration of c. 1" – those at the end of Section I have a duration of c. 8".

long pause 

regular pause 

short pause 

brief pause 

very brief pause (•)

Phonemes: Section I: each singer should execute an irregular rotation of vowel sounds (eg. ah – oh – or – ee – eh) for each notated sound. As many rotations as possible per notated sound at the beginning of Section I with a gradual reduction of the number of rotations per notated sound throughout Section I. Some notated sounds begin with a voiced uvular fricative (IPA 143, a guttural 'R') always notated (R) after which the vowel rotations continue.

Section II: each notated sound has one vowel change: x – y where x (drawn from 'ah', 'or', 'ooh') becomes y (different from x and also drawn from 'ah', 'or', 'ooh').

Section III: 'ah' throughout.

Micronotes:

quarter tone flat 

quarter tone sharp 

slightly higher (lower) intonation, always less than a quarter tone 

Pitch bending:

gradual bend up approx. one quarter tone 

gradual bend down approx. one quarter tone 

gradual bend up approx. two quarter tones 

gradual bend down approx. two quarter tones 

gradual bend up approx. three quarter tones 

gradual bend down approx. three quarter tones 

Vibrato:

Sections I and II: vibrato varies between fast and wide and slow and narrow 



Beating (Voice 1):

Section III

(slow) 

(fast) 

never greater than a quarter tone in either direction

Threnos

I A violent upheaval, fast, urgent, intense, continuous
Senza misura

Emily Howard

The musical score is written for Voice 1 (Sop./Mezzo), Voice 2 (Bass/Baritone), and Piano accompaniment. It is marked 'Senza misura' and 'A violent upheaval, fast, urgent, intense, continuous'. The score is divided into four systems, each with two staves for the piano accompaniment (labeled 1 and 2). The vocal parts feature dynamic markings of *f* (forte) and *p* (piano), and include various melodic lines, some with wavy lines indicating vibrato or tremolo. The piano accompaniment consists of rhythmic patterns, including tremolos and sustained notes, with dynamic markings of *f* and *p*. The score is marked with '(x)' and circled numbers (1, 2) indicating specific performance techniques or measures.