

Sheridan Seyfried

Night

for solo violin
(2002)

duration c. 7'

Sheridan Seyfried

Night

for solo violin

(2002)

for Ari Streisfeld

Program Note (by the composer)

Night was inspired by Elie Wiesel's 1958 memoir of the same name. Written with breathtaking concision, Wiesel's book tells the story of his experience as a captive at Auschwitz, the infamous Nazi concentration camp. During the Holocaust, Wiesel's father was murdered at Buchenwald and he was separated from his mother and sisters. He dedicated the rest of his life to making sure the suffering of the Holocaust was never forgotten by writing books and giving lectures all over the world. Wiesel received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986.

In this piece, I have attempted to translate in music the feelings I experienced while reading *Night*. There are a few programmatic elements in the piece, which I won't define but rather leave to the listener's imagination.

Wiesel's own words could serve as an appropriate preface to the work:

Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky. Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever. Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live. Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust. Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never.¹

¹quoted from: Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1960. Republished by Bantam Books (New York), 1982. (quote from pg. 32)

Night

Sheridan Seyfried (2002)

Violin

Lento, ♩=60

Musical notation for measures 1-6. The piece begins in 4/4 time. The first measure has a whole rest. The second measure contains a half note G4. The third measure contains a quarter note A4. The fourth measure contains a quarter note B4. The fifth measure contains a quarter note C5. The sixth measure contains a quarter note D5. The dynamic is *p semplice*.

Musical notation for measures 7-12. Measure 7 starts with a half note G4. Measure 8 has a half note A4. Measure 9 has a half note B4. Measure 10 has a half note C5. Measure 11 has a half note D5. Measure 12 has a half note E5. Dynamics include *pp*, *mf*, *f*, *p sub.*, and *p*. There are also markings for *espr.* and *+*.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. Measure 13 has a half note G4. Measure 14 has a half note A4. Measure 15 has a half note B4. Measure 16 has a half note C5. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, and *ppp flautando*.

Musical notation for measures 17-20. Measure 17 has a half note G4. Measure 18 has a half note A4. Measure 19 has a half note B4. Measure 20 has a half note C5. The dynamic is *ff aggressivo*.

Musical notation for measures 21-26. Measure 21 has a half note G4. Measure 22 has a half note A4. Measure 23 has a half note B4. Measure 24 has a half note C5. Measure 25 has a half note D5. Measure 26 has a half note E5. The tempo changes to *Molto meno mosso, ♩=69*. Dynamics include *sfz*, *p espr.*, and *p spiccato sempre*.

Musical notation for measures 27-29. Measure 27 has a half note G4. Measure 28 has a half note A4. Measure 29 has a half note B4. The dynamic is *accel. (poco a poco, like a train)*.

Musical notation for measures 30-31. Measure 30 has a half note G4. Measure 31 has a half note A4. The dynamic is *sfz*.

33 **Piu mosso**

ff

36

sfz sfz sfz

39 **rall.**

sfz

41 **Meno mosso** **rall.**

sfz mp pp

44 **Subito piu mosso** **molto rall.**

f p pp ppp f

47 **ff** **aggressivo, marcato** **freely**

$\text{♩} = 80$

51 **sfz** **ffp** **f** **ff** **p pleading** **3**

IV.

57 *pp* *rit.* *a tempo* *ppp* *mf* *pp* *pp* diabolical

63 *p* *fp* *p sub.* *mf*

68 *f*

72 *ff* *fff feroce* *f* *fff*

Piu mosso, ♩=108
breve

77 *f* *ff* *fff*

80 *f* *fff* *sfz* *p sub.* *ff*

83 *fff* *ff*

86 *fff* *p sub.* *fff* *deliberato*

91 *mf* *ff intenso* *pp* *molto rall.* *a tempo* *gliss.* *lunga* **Tempo I (Meno mosso)**
con sordino al fine

98 *mf* *p* *p* *rit.*

105 *mp* *pp* *mf* *rit.*

111 *f* *ppp* *p* *mf*

117 *p* *ff subito*

123 *pp* *p eco* *ppp*