

Void II (2020)

Duo for percussion

Since the planned concert of *Void*, a double concerto for two percussionists and orchestra, could not be performed at the Berlin Philharmonie in September 2020 due to Corona regulations, I wrote *Void II*, which was premiered together with *Dust II*.

void /vɔɪd. C13 F. *vuide* + *voider*, L. *vacare* + *vocītus*.

A desert, devoid, absent. A loss of, missing, gaping wide,

The final short prose of Samuel Beckett's 13 *Texts For Nothing*, 1947-52, is a text of great power and lucidity where intensely fragile fleeting moments, describing a mouthless murmuring ceaseless voice, are juxtaposed with violent outbursts of anger. I referred back to this prose again and again while completing this piece:

"...a voice murmuring a trace. A trace it wants to leave a trace, yes, like air leaves among the leaves....."

...And whose shame, at every mute micromillisyllable, and unshakeable infinity of remorse delving ever deeper in its bite, at having to hear, having to say, fainter than the faintest murmur, so many lies, so many times the same lie lyingly denied, whose the screaming silence of no's knife in yes's wound, it wonders...."

"...one day to be here, where there are no days, which is no place, born of the impossible voice the unmakeable, and a gleam of light, still all would be silent and empty and dark, as now, as soon now, when all will be ended, all said, it says, it murmurs."

Samuel Beckett, *Texts For Nothing*, Calder Publications

RS, Sept. 2020