

SERBAN NICHIFOR

FOUR SKETCHES

FOR AN UNFINISHED LIED

on fragments from the verses of MIRCEA DINESCU

(translation by FLORIN BICAN)

for

COUNTERTENOR + GRAN CASSA

and

PIANO



Șerban NICHIFOR

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Mircea DINESCU

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Piano

I.) HAÏKU

...the high priest with the tape recorder neath his cassock !...

(from the poem "Winter Pardon", vol. "The Democracy
of Nature", Editura Cartea Românească, 1981)

II.) THE COW

Go ahead and push the cow inside
the piano for a secret browse
let her lick the keys oh bless her hide
and the strings where leaves-like rustles rouse.

Let us see how he will manage now
the piano man with sparse hair turning gray
that he reaches for the browsing cow
both his hands that mutely smell of hay.

(from the volume "Exile on a Peppercorn",
Editura Cartea Românească, 1983)

III.) OSTINATO

A former chum
who has turned out to be a grand squeler of skill
after he did fulfil children three helping himself to a
woman's womb
married her to a dentist that left at his own will
(most excellent business deal, good bye, good bye !)
then he screwed himself even deeper in his motherland soil
and he fulfilled honey helping himself to some good natured bees
of which he later spoke ill !...

(from the poem "Love story", vol. "The Democracy of
Nature", Editura Cartea Românească, 1981)

You let the accountants account for each sea wave
you let other chaps dangle keys on a chain
be the fiddling Jim Crow the madman the tough slave
that hauls in December to rosebuds spring rain

in musical marshes be a modest athlete
ashamed when death claims you to go down the drain
in the ambulance vans on a quivering sheet
order dancing girls flowers and sparkling champagne !...

(from the poem "Exile on a Peppercorn" of the
homonymous volume, Editura Cartea Românească, 1983)

IV.) NOT TODAY

At a table running loose
with a wine that has no past
death and I go on the booze
feasting on a day of fast,

the worm's creeping up the lamp
studs are boiling in the oak
I can sniff the reeking tramp
casting off his ashen cloak, man !

Not today, maybe tomorrow
(when exactly, that's hell's will)
I shall find some youth to borrow
and get old much sooner still !

(from the volume "Exile on a Peppercorn",
Editura Cartea Românească, 1983)

SERBAN NICHIFOR

FOUR SKETCHES FOR AN UNFINISHED LIED

on fragments from the verses of MIRCEA DINESCU

Giusto (♩ ~ 120)

I. HAÏKU

bocca chiuso

Contratenore + Gr. cassa

con le bacc. di timpani

grandioso, marziale

deciso (l.v.)

glissando poco vibr.

sub. Rubato (♩ ~ 80)

mp doloroso

gliss.

(bocca chiuso)

gliss.

più mf doloroso

poco a poco precipitando

mf disperata

possibile

sub. Giusto (♩ ~ 120)

Ct. + Gr. c.

sfx

grandioso

molto sfz

sub. *Rubato* ($\text{♩} \sim 80$) *زنگنه* *mp piangendo* *sub. Giusto* ($\text{♩} \sim 120$)

Ct. + Gr.c.

sfz *violento* (L.v.)

Gr.c.

sfz (sempre violento) *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *possibile*

sub. *Rubato* ($\text{♩} \sim 80$) (*bocca chiuso*) *lontano* *gliss.* *pp* *esitando, poco*

Ct.

gl. *pp* *a poco bocca aperto (ma non crescendo)*

Ct.

Pioso *p* *the high priest*

Ct.

Ct. *mp dolce* ...with the tape re-con-der... *poco* *mf* neath his *poco gliss.* *molto*

sub. Giusto (♩ ~ 130)

Ct. *ff* *possibile* *glissando* *secco* *possibile* (grido) (longa) (longa) (~2')

Gr.c. *ff* *secco* *possibile*

Piano *ff grandioso* *possibile* *secco* *possibile* *attaca subito* *Ped. t.r.*

III. THE COW

Rubato

mp parlando minaccioso

ct. 
 Go a-head and push the cow in-side the pi-a-no for a se-cret browse, let her

Piano *in Pianoforte con unghia*
leggiere *l.v.*
poco a poco decrescendo -----
(sempre Ped. l.v.) -----
l.v.

lick the keys oh bless her hide and the strings where leaves-like ru-stles rouse

l.v.
(sempre Ped. l.v.) -----
sempre decrescendo -----

poco a poco sarcastico

let us see how he will ma-nage now the pi-a-no man with sparse hair tur-ning gray

l.v.
(sempre Ped. l.v.) -----
l.v.
sempre decrescendo -----

molto $\frac{3}{4}$ (~ 30")

that he reaches for the brow-sing cow both his hands that mu-tely small of hay---

l.r.

(sempre Ped. l.r.)

sempre decrescendo *ppp*

attacca subito

III. OSTINATO

et. $\frac{3}{4}$ *Giusto* (d. ~ 94)

Piano *sub.mf* 1-32 *meccanicamente, con imbecillità.* 2

mf 7 *Psst!*

3 4 5

sempre mormorando
poco marcato

Ct. *mf* 7 *Hey!* *mf* 7 *Psst!* 6

Piano *poco a poco crescendo*

Ct. *mf* 7 *Hey!* 9 10 11 12

Piano

Ct. *sfz (poco grido)* *Hey!!* *gl.* *sfz* 7

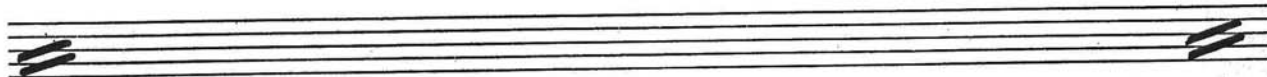
Gr. C.

Piano *poco a poco più minaccioso* 13 14 15 16 *molto ff* *violento*

mf *mol. canz.*

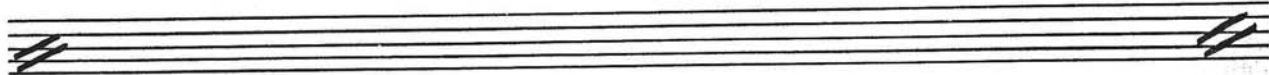
Ct.

Piano *sub. mp* *molto grazioso e gentile, ma sempre meccanicamente*



Ct. *for - mer chum, a for - men chum who has turned out to be a grand*

Pk Piano *5 6*



Ct. *squea - len of skill af - ter he did ful - fil chil - dren three hel - ping - him -*

Gr.c. *sfx 7*

Pk Piano *2*

Ct. *self to a wo-man's womb— mar-ried her to a den-tist that*

Gr.c. *sfz sfz*

Piano *2*

Ct. *left— at his— own will, most ex-cel-lent, ex-cel-lent busi-ness*

Gr.c. *sfz sfz sfz sfz*

Piano *2*

Ct. *con adulazione* *sub.f Patetico*
deal, good bye, good bye, good bye, good bye, then he screwed him—

Gr.c. *sfz sfz*

Piano *sub. pp, grazioso,* *leggierissimo* *sub. mf pesante, sempre*

ct. + Gr.c.

self e—ven dee—per in his ma—ther—land sail and

meccanicamente

sfz sfz

Detailed description: This system contains the first musical phrase. The vocal line (Ct.) is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are "self e—ven dee—per in his ma—ther—land sail and". The guitar part (Gr.c.) is in standard tuning with a key signature of one flat, featuring a 7th fret barre and a natural sign on the 7th string. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand, marked *meccanicamente* and *sfz*.

ct. + Gr.c.

he ful—fil—led ho—ney hel—ping him—self to some good na—tured

2 2

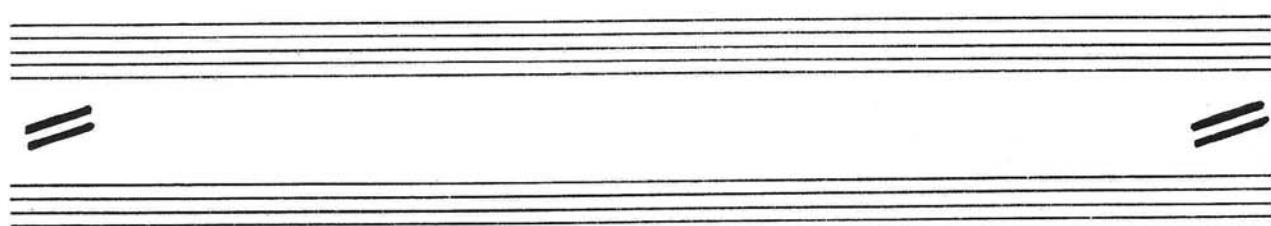
sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz

Detailed description: This system contains the second musical phrase. The vocal line (Ct.) continues with the lyrics "he ful—fil—led ho—ney hel—ping him—self to some good na—tured". The guitar part (Gr.c.) features a 7th fret barre and a natural sign on the 7th string. The piano accompaniment includes a double bar line with a fermata above it, followed by chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand, with a second double bar line and fermata. The markings *sfz* and the number *2* are present.

Ct. + Gr.c. Piano

bees of wich he *la ter* spoke ill, spoke

sfz *sfz*



Ct. + Gr.c. Piano

ill, *spoke* ill, *spoke* ill, ill, ill, ill, ill, ill, ill,

sfz *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

molto

molto

sfz *a tempo* *sfz*

Ct. + Gr.c. *sfz* *sfz*

1-4 2 3 4 1-4 2

Piano

Ct. + Gr.c. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *poco...*

keys on a chain be the fid-dling jim Crow the mad-man the tough slave that

Gr.c. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

3 4 1-4 2 3 4

Piano

a poco affrettando

Ct. + Gr.c.

hails in De-cem-ber to rose-buds spring rain in mu-si-cal mar-shes be

Piano

Ct. + Gr.c.

a mo-dest ath-lete a-shamed when death claims you to go down the drain in

Piano

sempre affrettando ----- *subito molto allargando*

gliss. poco a poco gridare

Ct. + Gr.c.

am-bu-lance vans on a qui-ve-ning sheet or-den dan-cing girls

Piano

1 2 1 2

sffz

allargando ----- *sffz possibile*

Ct. + Gr.c.

flo-wers and spar-king cham-pagne!... (~ 1'30")

sffz

Piano

(longa)

sffz possibile

attacca subito

Lento, poco esitanto (♩ ~ 50) **IV. NOT TODAY**

Piano

pp semplice ed immateriale
Ped.-----* Ped.-----* Ped.-----*

Ct. *p molto doloroso, poco rubato*

At a ta—ble run—ning loose— with a wine that has no past— death and

Piano

Ped.-----* Ped.-----* Ped.-----* Ped.-----* Ped.-----*

Ct. 9

I go on the booze— fea—ting on a day of fast—

Piano

Ped.-----* Ped.-----* Ped.-----* Ped.-----*

Ct. 
the worm's cree - ping up the lamp studs are bai - ling

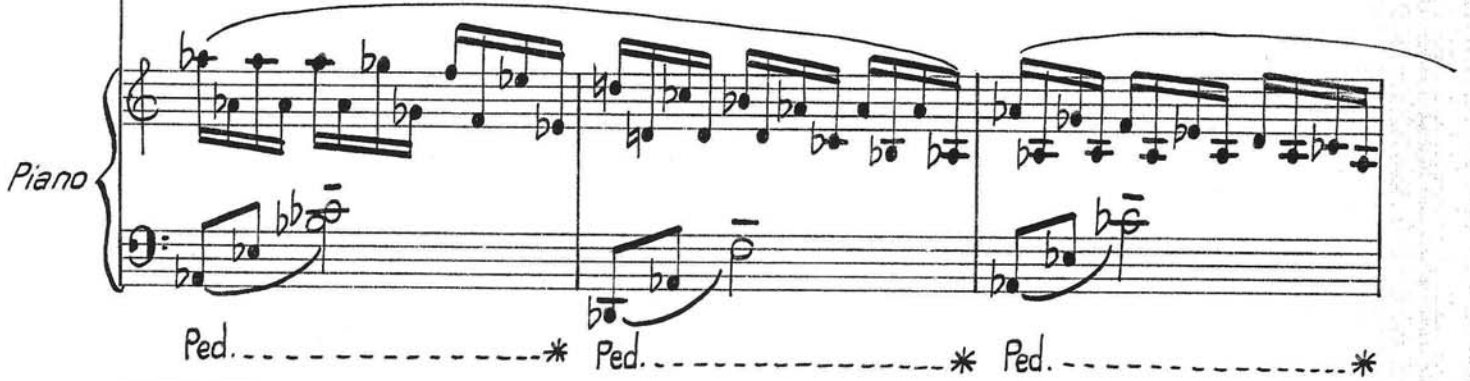
leggierissimo sempre

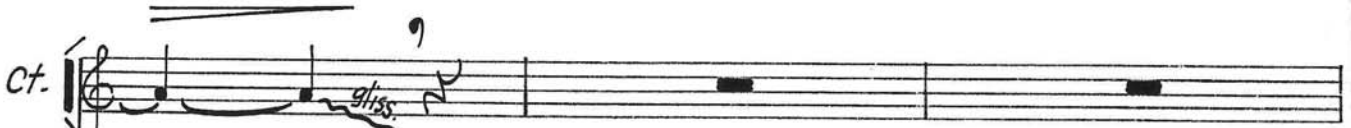
Piano 
Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

Ct. 
in the oak I can sniff the nee - king tramp cas - ting

Piano 
Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

Ct.  *off his as-hen cloak casting off his as-hen cloak, man!*

Piano  *Ped. * Ped. * Ped. **

Ct.  *gliss.*

Piano  *Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *
poco a poco slentando.... **

poco esitando

Ct. *Not to—day— may—*

Piano

Ped. ——— * Ped. ——— * Ped. ——— *

Ct. *be to—mon— row, when e—xact—ly, that's hell's will—*

Piano

Ped. ——— * Ped. ——— * Ped. ——— *

Ct. *I shall find some youth to borrow and get old much sooner*

molto

Ped. ----- * Ped. ----- *

sub. Allegro (♩ ≈ 142)

Ct. *still!* *precipitando*

sub. sfz *disperato* *gliss.* *ff*

sub. ff *disperato* *e.v.*

sub. sfz

sub. sfz

Ped. ----- *

Molto Dramatico (♩ ~ 160)
(sempre rubato)

sub. Giusto (♩ ~ 150)

Ct. + Gr.c.

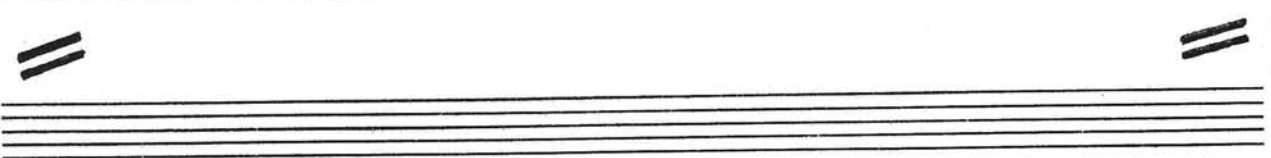
ff *gliss.* *possibile* *sffz poss.* *(grido)*

and get old much soo-ner still!!

Piano

sffz *l.v.* *sffz* *minaccioso* *sffz violenta* *poco a poco*

Ped.



Ct. + Gr.c.

accelerando molto, isterico (♩ ~ 240) *lunga*

feroce *interrotto subito secco*

deciso *possibile* *lunga* (~15-20")

Piano

decrescendo *(sempre decrescendo)* *l.v.* *morendo* (~2'40") (~6'40")

Ped.