Athanasios Zlikas

Hocket of Petty Selves

SCORE IN C

York, 2013
INSTRUMENTATION

1 Oboe
1 Bassoon

1 Trumpet in B flat

Piano

PERCUSSION:
Suspended cymbals
Tambourine
Woodblocks
Snare Drum
Tenor Drum
Bass Drum

(2 Percussionists)

SOLO VOICES:
2 Mezzo-Sopranos (1 and 2)
2 Tenors (1 and 2)
2 Basses (1 and 2)

Piano

1 Viola
1 Contrabass

Duration: approximately 10 minutes

Score in C
Composer's note

Greek poet Giannis Skarimbas (1893-1984) is, by general acceptance, an entirely peculiar and personal voice in Greek letters. Besides being an adversary of the established civil values, he has been one of the first man of letters who introduced surrealistic elements in modern Greek literature. One of the characteristics of his poetry that has always impressed me, is the co-existence of the old-fashioned rhyme with the ground-breaking content by means of a peevish, almost eccentric handling of the syntax of the modern Greek language. For several years now, the idea of setting his poems to music has been a difficult, yet tempting challenge for me. I decided to meet this challenge during my PhD at York by setting the poem “Petty selves”, which is cited below, to music:

**Petty selves**¹

So fine was tonight my sorrow,
all came in silence, passionless,
and found me -with none missing-
my mistakes.

And as I recognised all of them around me -drums and cymbals-
all held, trumpets and violas
PETTY SELVES who watched me,
all my blunders.

Ah!...what a troupe, somewhat of bumps,
drunken and out of tune musicians,
as they looked like -with their swollen noses-
clowns.

And what an inspiration to give me the baton
in front of a tripod with mysterious melodies
whereupon my failed works were written
-march songs!

Ah...what an inspiration!... Master of the wrong notes always me,
with my baton now held high -I say- with horrors
there, with this band I shall march
on the streets.

And as I go with backwards steps
in horns and santurs they will bang them
my clowns-leaping in the air-
the battle songs...

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¹ The translation from the Greek language has been rendered by Evi Rodiou
Hocket of Petty Selves

Athanasios Zlikas

(2013)
(as they looked like)
(there, with this band I shall march) (drunken) (out of tune)
(And as I go with backwards steps)
(with mysterious melodies)

(of bumps)
(with the baton held high)

(with the baton held high)

(with the baton held high)

(with the baton held high)

(with the baton held high)

(with the baton held high)

(with the baton held high)

(with the baton held high)

(with the baton held high)

(with the baton held high)

(with the baton held high)