Dominic Floyd

Orpheus in the Underworld
Orpheus in the Underworld

for Solo Baritone, Violin, Cello and Piano

Duration: c.8 minutes

Words: David Gascoyne

Music: Dominic Floyd
Orpheus in the Underworld

Curtains of rock
And tears of stone,
Wet leaves in a high crevice of the sky:
   From side to side the draperies
   Drawn back by rigid hands.

And he came carrying the shattered lyre,
And wearing the blue robes of a king,
And looking through eyes like holes torn in a screen;
And the distant sea was faintly heard,
   From time to time, in the suddenly rising wind
   Like a broken song.

Out of his sleep, from time to time,
   From between half open lips,
Escaped the bewildered words which try to tell
   The tale of his bright night
   And his wing-shadowed day
The soaring flights of thought beneath the sun
   Above the islands of the seas
And all the deserts, all the pastures, all the plains
   Of the distracting foreign land.

He sleeps with the broken lyre between his hands,
   And round his slumber are drawn back
The rigid draperies, the tears and wet leaves,
Cold curtains of rock concealing the bottomless sky.

David Gascoyne
1936
Orpheus in the Underworld

David Gascoyne 1936

Dominic Floyd 2018

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of stone, Wet leaves in a high crevice

A

of the sky,
From

\[\text{ppp}\]

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\[\text{pp}\]

\[\text{mp}\]

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\[\text{pp}\]

\[\text{mp}\]
Bar. Solo

side to side the draperies

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Drawn back by rigid hands

mf

mf

sul pont. sul tasto ord.
Bar. Solo

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

carrying the shattered lyre

And,

col legno

pienz

Red

And wearing the blue robes of a king.

col legno

col legno

Pno.
And looking through eyes

like holes torn in a screen
And the distant sea is faintly
heard from time to time
Bar. Solo

in the sud-den-ly ri - sing

Vln.

arco

Vc.

ppp

Pno.

mp

mf

Bar. Solo

wind

Like

Vln.

f p —— pp

sul pont.

Vc.

f p —— pp

Pno.

mp
Bar. Solo

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

suddenly more calm, rocking

D

Bar. Solo

Vln.

Vc.

D

suddenly more calm, rocking

P legato
his sleep from time to time From between half open

lips Escaped the bet

84

86
Bar. Solo

wild-ered words which try to tell The

Vln.

ord. sul pont. ord.

f p

ord. sul pont. ord. sul pont.

Vc.

f p

Pno.

f mf

90

Bar. Solo
tale of

Vln.

pizz

s sul pont. arco

Vc.

f p

Pno.

f mf mp
his bright night and his wing-shadowed day The soa-

ring flights of

Bar. Solo

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.
96

Bar. Solo

thought

be

97

Bar. Solo

neath the sun

A
And all the deserts,

all the pastures,
Bar. Solo

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

all the plains

pizz

sul pont.

ord.

rit.

of the dis-trac-ting foreign land

arco

sul pont.

sul pont.

rit.

= 48

= 48

= 48

Red

Red

Red

Red
He sleeps

with the broken
lyre between his hands,

And round his
128
Bar. Solo

slumber are drawn back the rigid drapes

Vln.

arco

Pno.

132
Bar. Solo

the tears,

Vln.

col legno

Vc.

pizz

Pno.

pppp
cur-tains of rock
con-cea-ling the bot-tom-less

*breathy, and fade to breath*

al niente

al niente

al niente

al niente

al niente