

*for Monica Filgo*

# **The Dark**

**for**

**Soprano and Harpsichord**

**Nick Hwang**

*Special thanks to Allison Usher*

**Adapted from *The Dark* by Monica Filgo**

A late drive and the Dark is so thick.  
I twist my hair and imagine-  
The scent of water on my head,  
Rain sound of water over me.  
I imagine sleep as I drive.  
Ready with my keys, the shadows all around hide Him.  
I feel my lungs explode, screaming.  
I tremble. I am frozen stone.  
Young, with this gun, he blends into the night.  
He's reaching towards me.  
I step away, and imagine-  
My hair in his fist, my teeth along the ground, my blood.  
I try to scream again, but he stops me.  
I try to stand, to bite, to kick but he stops me.  
I imagine dying.  
I imagine living at this in between place with a gun to my  
neck!  
I feel the ground then nothing.  
I would run for forever, if ever if I could stand.  
A future now that's unreal!  
He whispers, 'Quiet calm down.'  
I close my eyes, and enter the Dark.

In the original text and adaptation, the author alternates between violent reality and numbing imagination. I felt the turning point in the text is when the unavoidable reality overcomes any escapist fantasy, and the two states of mind combine. This piece was an attempt make an adequately emotional setting to an experience of a personal friend.

**Performance**

Strict tempo should not be arduously observed. A constant ebb and flow must be conveyed. Clusters span the indicted range and may be played in any fashion with the 'natural' keys.

to Monica Filgo

# the dark

♩ = 84, Foreboding

for  
Soprano and Harpsichord

Nick Hwang  
2006

Voice

Harpischord

5

Hpschd.

10

10

*p*

A late drive \_\_\_\_\_ and the

Hpschd.

the dark

*slowing*  
*mp*

16 *mf*

Dark \_\_\_\_\_ is so thick \_\_\_\_\_ I twist my hair, \_\_\_\_\_

Hpschd.

*a little faster, smoother (♩ = 90)*  
*mf*

20

and i - ma - gine. \_\_\_\_\_ The scent of wa - ter on my head, \_

Hpschd.

25

rain \_\_\_\_\_ sound of wa - ter ov - er \_\_\_\_\_ me.

Hpschd.

29 *slightly slowing*

*freer*

Musical score for measures 29-32. The vocal line starts with a whole rest in 2/4 time, then changes to 3/4 and 7/8. The piano accompaniment (Hpschd.) features chords and moving lines in the right and left hands. The lyrics are: I i - ma - gine \_\_\_\_\_ sleep as

Hpschd.

33

*quicken*

*mp*

Musical score for measures 33-37. The vocal line continues with lyrics: I drive. \_\_\_\_\_ Re - ady with my keys \_\_\_\_\_ The piano accompaniment (Hpschd.) includes chords and moving lines. The lyrics are: I drive. \_\_\_\_\_ Re - ady with my keys \_\_\_\_\_

Hpschd.

38

*mf*

*mp*

Musical score for measures 38-41. The vocal line continues with lyrics: \_\_\_\_\_ the sha - dows all a - round hide Him. The piano accompaniment (Hpschd.) includes chords and moving lines. The lyrics are: \_\_\_\_\_ the sha - dows all a - round hide Him.

Hpschd.

## the dark

41 *mf* *f*

Sha-dows all a - round, \_\_\_\_\_ a - round \_\_\_\_\_ hide Him! \_\_\_\_\_

Hpschd.

45 *mf* *mp*

\_\_\_\_\_ I feel my lungs \_\_\_\_\_ ex - plode, scream - ing, \_\_\_\_\_ I

hold to silence

Hpschd.

50 *mf* *mp* *mf*

trem - ble. \_\_\_ I \_\_\_ am fro - zen \_\_\_ stone. \_\_\_\_\_ Young, with this gun, he

Hpschd.

54

blends in- to the night. He's reach-ing t'wards me! I step a-

Hpschd.

58

*f* *mp* *broaden*

way, I step a - way! \_\_\_\_\_ and i - ma - gine. \_\_\_\_\_ My hair in his

Hpschd.

64

*mf* *f*

fist, my teeth a-long the ground, \_\_\_\_\_ my blood, \_\_\_\_\_ my blood! \_\_\_\_\_

Hpschd.

## the dark

70 *a tempo* (♩=90) *mf*

I try to scream a - gain but he stops me. —

Hpschd.

73 *f*

— I try to stand, to bite, to kick — but he stops me. —

Hpschd.

77 *push* *mp* *pull back* *a tempo* (♩=90)

I i - ma - gine dy - - - ing. I i - ma - gine — liv - ing at this

Hpschd.



the dark

suddenly quicken

81 *mf* *f*

in - be - tween \_\_\_\_\_ place \_\_\_\_\_ with a gun \_\_\_\_\_ to my neck! \_\_\_\_\_

Hpschd.

85 *slowing*

I feel the ground \_\_\_\_\_ then no-thing. I would run. \_ I wouldrun for

Hpschd.

89

*broaden*

*f*

*Gliss.*

e - ver, \_ if I could stand. \_ if I could stand. \_ A fu - ture

Hpschd.

the dark

*even slower, continually dying away*

93 *ff* *mf* *mp*

now that's un - real! \_\_\_\_\_ He whi - pers. \_\_\_\_\_ qui - et

Hpschd.

98 *mp*

calm down. \_\_\_\_\_ I close my eyes, \_\_\_\_\_ and en-ter \_\_\_\_\_

Hpschd.

104 *p*

\_\_\_\_\_ the Dark. \_\_\_\_\_

Hpschd.