

Praeambulum Izmailova

The Ghosts of Boris Timofeyevich and Zinovi Borisovich
return to dance with Katerina Lvovna and Sergei
on their Wedding Day



Piano Duet

Peter Dyson
1981 revised 1995

To make sense of this piece it is helpful to know the plot of Leskov's story. In Preis's libretto for Shostakovich's opera "Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk" Katerina is the bored wife of the merchant Zinovi. Whilst he is away at the mill, she embarks on a passionate affair with the new labourer Sergei. He is caught climbing out of Katerina's bedroom window by Boris, Zinovi's tyrannical father. Sergei is flogged in front of everyone. Katerina poisons Boris in revenge. Zinovi returns and confronts Katerina with her infidelity. They murder him.

The scene is the wedding of Katerina and Sergei. By now, the body of Zinovi has been discovered and the police are on their way to arrest the couple. In the 1987 English National Opera production, the entracte music is used to show the wedding celebrations. Boris's body is left on stage in his coffin. The ghosts of Boris and Zinovi take over the bridal dance in turn. This theatrical device worked most effectively and caught my imagination. In this piano duet I have sought to recapture the moment when the past invades the present and events in the dance of life go out of control. There are no musical references to Shostakovich whatsoever in this piece. The links are purely literary and visual.

Peter Dyson

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(1981 revised 1995)

Getting gradually quicker (♩ = 70)

Peter Dyson



6

Pr *mf*

Sec *mf*

9

(♩ = 80)

Pr *ff*

Sec *ff*

12

(♩ = 85)

Pr *mf* *f*

Sec *mf* *f*

15 (♩ = 90)

Pr

Sec

mf

18

Pr

Sec

21 (♩ = 95) (♩ = 100)

Pr

Sec

f

24

Pr

Sec

p

mf

26 (♩ = 105)

Pr

Sec

mf

29 (♩ = 110)

Pr

Sec

f

mf

32

Pr

Sec

35 (♩ = 115)

Pr

Sec

f

37

Pr

Sec

6

(♩ = 120)

39

Pr *ff*

Sec *ff*



(♩ = 125)

41

Pr

Sec



43

Pr

Sec

(♩ = 130)

45

Pr

Sec

fff

47

Pr

Sec

f

(♩ = 140)

49

Pr

Sec

fff

ff

(♩ = 145)

52

Pr

Sec

(♩ = 150)

55

Pr

Sec

57

Pr

Sec

(♩ = 155)

58

Pr

Sec

60

8va

Pr

Sec

(♩ = 160)

63

Pr

Sec

64

Pr

Sec

64

Pr

Sec

65

Pr

Sec

(♩ = 150) **Getting gradually slower**

65

Pr

Sec

(♩ = 150) **Getting gradually slower**

66

Pr

Sec

(♩ = 140)

66

Pr

Sec

(♩ = 140)

(♩ = 130) (♩ = 120)

67 o.

Pr

Sec

(♩ = 110) (♩ = 70)

69

Pr

Sec

mf *fz*

(♩ = 65) (♩ = 60)

72

Pr

Sec

f *f*

75 (♩ = 55)

Pr *mf*

Sec *mf*



77 (♩ = 50)

Pr *ff* *fff*

Sec *ff* *fff*