

Vera Ivanova

Как у облака на краю
(Как u oblaka na krau)

(As if on the rim of cloud)

for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

Text by Anna Akhmatova

Duration: c. 4-5 minutes

2011

Program notes

"As if on the rim of cloud" is an opening poem of the "Cinque," one of the three of Anna Akhmatova's post-World War II cycles (the other two are "The Wild Rose Blooms" and "Midnight Verses").

In his book "Anna Akhmatova. Her Poetry" David N. Wells describes Akhmatova's love poems as being "dominated by the physical absence of the figure of the beloved. At the same time, however, they preserve the memory of the beloved on a much broader and more permanent plane than in the early verse, and commemorate the lasting emotional transformation which the heroine has undergone through the experience of love."

The song was commissioned and premiered by the 2011 Staunton Music Festival.

Text of the poem

Анна Ахматова

Anna Akhmatova

(translated by Judith Hemschemeyer)

Cinque

Cinque

I
Как у облака на краю,
Вспоминаю я речь твою,

I
As if on the rim of a cloud,
I remember your words,

А тебе от речи моей
Стали ночи светлее дней.

And because of my words to you,
Night became brighter than day.

Так отторгнутые от земли,
Высоко мы, как звезды, шли.

Thus, torn from the earth,
We rose up, like stars.

Ни отчаянья, ни стыда
Ни теперь, ни потом, ни тогда,

There was neither despair nor shame,
Not now, not afterward, not at the time.

Но живого и наяву,
Слышишь ты, как тебя зову.

But in real life, right now,
You hear how I am calling you.

И ту дверь, что ты приоткрыл,
Мне захлопнуть не хватит сил.

And that door that you half opened,
I don't have the strength to slam.

Transliteration of the Russian text, used in the vocal score

Kak u òblaka na krayù,
Vspominàyu ya rech' tvoyù,

A tebè ot rèchi moyèy
Stàli nòchi svetlèye dnèy.

Tak ottòrgnutyye ot zemli,
Vysokò my, kak zvyòzdy, shli.

Ni otchàyan'ya, ni stydà
Ni tepèr', ni potòm, ni togdà,

No zhivòvo i nayavù,
Slýshish' ty, kak tebyà zovù.
I tu dver', chto ty priotkrýl,
Mne zahlòpnut' ne hvàtit sil.

Kak u oblaka na krau

(As if on the rim of a cloud)

Text: Anna Akhmatova

Music: Vera Ivanova

Adagio ma non troppo ♩ = 64

softly, dream-like

The musical score is arranged in four systems. The first system is for Piano, featuring a right-hand part with a melody and a left-hand part with accompaniment. The second system is for Piano, showing a more complex texture with a 3/4 time signature change and a fermata. The third system includes a Mezzo voice line with lyrics and a Piano accompaniment. The fourth system continues the Mezzo voice line and Piano accompaniment.

Piano
p *sempre legato*
sempre con Ped.

Pno
rall. *f* *a tempo*

Mezzo
p intimately
Kak u o - bla - ka na kra - yu,

Pno
pp
Ped. *sim.*

Mezzo
Vspo - mi - na - yu ya rech' tvo - yu, A te -

Pno

Mezzo

15 *cresc.* *mf* *f*

be ot re - chi mo - yey Sta - li

Pno

15 *cresc.* *f*

Mezzo

19 *mf*

no - chi svet - le - ye dney.

Pno

19 *mf decresc.*

Mezzo

23 *p*

Tak ot-

Pno

23 *p* *pp*

8vb

27 *mp*

Mezzo

tor - gnu-ty - ye ot zem - li, Vy - so - ko — my, kak zvyo - zdy,

Pno

mp

31 *p* *mp*

Mezzo

shli. Ni ot - cha - ya - n'ya, ni sty - da Ni te -

Pno

p

35 *mf* *cresc.*

Mezzo

per', ni po - tom, ni to - gda, — No zhi - vo - vo ³ i na - ya -

Pno

mp *cresc.*

8vb

Mezzo

38

vu, Sly-shish' ty, kak te - bya zo - vu.

Pno

38

f

Mezzo

41

I tu

Pno

41

rit. **Meno mosso** *mp*

dim. *pp* *mp*

poco Ped.

Mezzo

43

dver', chto ty pri - ot - kryl, Mne za -

Pno

43

sim. *poco decresc.*

45 *p*

Mezzo

hlo - - - pnut' ne hva - - - - - tit

Pno

p

47 *pp*

Mezzo

sil.

Pno

pp *ppp mf*

49

Mezzo

Pno

f *p* *rit.* *pp*

8vb