

## TRIO 2 - Song for Peter

Trio 2 is written for soprano, clarinet and 'cello. The text weaves together lines by Emily Dickinson, Ted Hughes, Sarah Teasdale and Anton Chekhov, in order to give different perspectives to perennial thoughts about time and mortality.

Dickinson describes a mystical experience when she seemed to cease to be, yet was fully conscious. Hughes uses a house in a storm as a metaphor for the storms wreaked by humans. Teasdale is a pacifist poet of the first world war; her poem is used complete, as a quiet heart to the trio, whereas the other poems are fragmented.

Teasdale paints a benign picture of our planet without people; Chekhov's lines from 'The Seagull' give us a bleaker view, and these words are used as a refrain in the Trio:

*No more shall white cranes wake and cry...*

*All living bodies have turned to dust*

*All, all have gone*

*Into stones, into water, into dust.*

Trio 2 was commissioned by Gemini, who gave the first performance in March 1983. It was written in January '83 while I was nursing my new-born baby. Is there a paradox between the happiness of those weeks and Chekhov's bleak vision? perhaps - but not a contradiction.

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