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CARTAS PORTUGUESAS

for female voice and piano

text: fragments from *Cartas Portuguesas* by Mariana
Alcoforado

Commissioned by Filipa Portela with the support of DGARTES

Fátima Fonte

2020

PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR THE PIANO:

- The notes with a diamond symbol are played directly on the strings;
- Until the bar 13 the duration of the notes is free, but should follow the vertical alignment with the voice;
- Until the bar 13 the slurs indicate that the note should remain pressed as much time as possible.

Duration: ca. 6'30

TEXT:

Escrevo mais para mim do que para ti; não procuro senão alívio.

Há já muito tempo que um oficial espera esta carta. Tencionava escrevê-la de forma a não te aborrecer, mas é tão incoerente que o melhor é acabá-la.

Detesto a sua franqueza. Porque me não deixou com a minha paixão? Não me chegava a desgraça de não ter conseguido de si o cuidado de me iludir? Era preciso não lhe poder perdoar?

TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT:

I write more for myself than for you; I seek nothing but relief.

An officer has been expecting this letter for a long time. I intended to write it so as not to upset you, but it is so incoherent that it is best to finish it.

I abhor your candour. Why did you not leave me with my passion? Was the disgrace of not getting from you the care to deceive me not enough? Was it necessary not to be able to forgive you?

Mariana Alcoforado, fragments from the Fourth and Fifth Letters

CARTAS PORTUGUESAS

Mariana Alcoforado

Fátima Fonte

Still, but flowing

Bars 1 - 7: duration between 0'50 and 0'55

Bars 1 - 8: the last note of each phrase in the voice overlaps slightly with the piano's arpeggio of the following bar

p, gently

Voice

[m]

Depress keys before silently and hold until bar 8
Gliss inside the piano in the area of the notes

Piano

mp, gently, with as much resonance as possible

Ped.

3

Voz

Pno.

5

Voz

Pno.

7

Voz

Pno.

With more flow

Bars 8 - 13: duration between 1' and 1'10

8

Voz

Pno.

dolce
p

mp

Escre - vo mais para mim do que

9

Voz

Pno.

pa - ra pa - ra ti;

mp

* Ped.

10

Voz

não pro - cu - ro se-não a - lí - vi - o.

Pno.

11 *mp*

Voz

Há ————— já mui - to tem - po

Pno.

Gliss inside the piano with the keys depressed

The image shows a musical score for a vocal and piano piece. The vocal line (Voz) is in treble clef and features a melodic line with a long slur over the lyrics 'Há ————— já mui - to tem - po'. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) consists of two staves. The right hand (treble clef) has a long slur over a few notes. The left hand (bass clef) has a glissando marked with a downward arrow and the instruction 'Gliss inside the piano with the keys depressed'. The tempo is marked '11' and the dynamic is 'mp' (mezzo-piano).

12

Voz

que um o - fi - ci - al es - pe - ra es - ta car - ta.

Pno.

mf *mp* *f* Ped.

Rhythmic, Pulsing

13 Gradually moving to $\text{♩}=68$

Voz

Pno.

mf

mp

Red. * *Red.*

Gradually moving to $\text{♩}=68$

Rhythmic, Pulsing

15 *mf*

Voz

Ten-ci-o-na-va es - - cre-vê - la de for-ma

Pno.

mf

* *Red.*

18

Voz

a não te a-bo-rre-cer, mas é tão

Pno.

21

Voz

in-co-e-ren-te___ que o me- lhor_____ é a-ca-bá - la.___

Pno.

* 12

24 (♩.=68)

Voz

Pno.

mf

Ped.

Always rhythmic
Appassionato

♩.=50

31

Voz

p

De - tes - to_____

Pno.

pp

Red.

36

Voz

mf

a su - a fran que - za.____ Por - que me não dei - xou____ com

Pno.

40

Voz

f

a mi - nha pai- xão?____ Não____ me che-ga-va a des- gra - ça de não ter

Pno.

mf

15^{ma} *8^{va}* *8^{va}* *8^{va}*

* *Red.*

44

Voz

de si o cui - da-do de me i-lu - dir?_____

Pno.

8va

15ma

8va

48

Voz

mf

E - ra_____ pre - ci - so não___lhe po -

Pno.

mf

3

3

* Ped.

52

Voz

der per-do ar?_____

Pno.

p

mf

8va

8va

8va

8va

*

57

Voz

Pno.

f

Ped. [change pedal when necessary]

Measures 57-59. The vocal line (Voz) is a single whole rest. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) features a complex melody in the right hand with many slurs and ties, and a bass line with chords and eighth notes. A forte (*f*) dynamic is marked at the start. A pedal instruction (*Ped.* [change pedal when necessary]) is at the bottom.

60

Voz

Pno.

Measures 60-61. The vocal line (Voz) is a single whole rest. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) continues the complex melody from the previous system. Measure 61 ends with a double bar line.

62

Voz

Pno.

marcato

3

Measures 62-64. The vocal line (Voz) is a single whole rest. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) features a more rhythmic melody in the right hand. A marcato dynamic is marked at the start of measure 63. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' in measure 64.

65

Voz

Pno.

The musical score for measures 65-69 consists of three systems. The first system (measures 65-66) shows the vocal line with whole rests and the piano accompaniment with a complex melody in the right hand and a rhythmic bass line in the left hand. The second system (measures 67-68) continues the piano accompaniment, with the vocal line entering in measure 68 with a half note. The third system (measures 69-70) shows the piano accompaniment concluding with a final chord in the right hand and a sustained bass note in the left hand.

68

Voz

Pno.

marcato

ff

71

Voz

Intense, with energy
♩=74
f

Ten - ci-o-na - va es -

Intense, with energy
♩=74
f

8^{va}

Pno.

* Ped.

79

Voz

lhor _____ é a-ca-bá - la. _____

Pno.

mf

v_c. ||| # v_c. * # v_c. Ped.

82

Voz

Pno.

3

85

Voz

Pno.

pp

*