

For Günther

Erik Peters

Words by Ingeborg Bachmann

Thema und Variation (2016)

for countertenor, recorder, lute, violin and viola da gamba

Commissioned by Lipparella with support from the Swedish Arts Council

Contents

Instrumentation	p. iv
Performance notes	p. 1
1. In diesem Sommer	p. 2
2. Der Erdbeerschlag	p. 4
3. Die ganze Süße	p. 6
4. In einen Schlaf	p. 8
5. Der ist ohne Leid	p. 10
6. Honig und Beeren?	p. 12
7. Nachtwandlerischer	p. 14
8. Ein Strahl des Lichts	p. 16
9. Ins Unterholz	p. 18
10. Unten im Dorf	p. 20
11. In diesem Sommer	p. 22

Instrumentation

Baroque tenor recorder

Baroque violin

Countertenor

Renaissance lute

Renaissance viola da gamba

Performance notes

This score is conceived as a theatre play.

It is composed in the context of a project around text and music, in collaboration with ensemble Lipparella and director Karl Dunér.

The score is based on the poem Thema und variation by Austrian writer Ingeborg Bachmann, from the collection Die gestundete Zeit (1953).

Details such as timbre, articulation, dynamics and tempo are not written out, but decided upon by the performers as part of the interpretation process.

The director is responsible for the staging and the overall direction, which may imply a re-interpretation of the score and the musical decisions made by the performers.

Some of the movements have a timeless and ambient character, and could be conceived as a very early music or perhaps a music from the future.

Other movements sound old in the sense that they allude to a musical language that until very recently was conceived as being new and modern.

Yet another type of movement is conceived as a kind of musical game.

These aspects of the music are all related to the context of the poetry of Ingeborg Bachmann.

For Günther
Thema und Variation
1. In diesem Sommer

Ingeborg Bachmann (1926-1973)

Erik Peters (1970)

Musical score for measures 1-8. The score is in 5/8 time and includes parts for Tenor Recorder, Violin, Countertenor, Lute, and Viola da Gamba. The lyrics are: In die - - - - sem. The Tenor Recorder part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 3-4 and a fermata at the end. The Violin part has a similar melodic line with a slur over measures 3-4 and a fermata at the end. The Countertenor part has a vocal line with a slur over measures 3-4 and a fermata at the end. The Lute part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 3-4 and a fermata at the end. The Viola da Gamba part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 3-4 and a fermata at the end.

Musical score for measures 9-12. The score is in 5/8 time and includes parts for T. Rec., Vln., Ct., Lute, and VdG. The lyrics are: Som - - - - mer blieb der. The T. Rec. part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 10-11 and a fermata at the end. The Vln. part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 10-11 and a fermata at the end. The Ct. part has a vocal line with a slur over measures 10-11 and a fermata at the end. The Lute part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 10-11 and a fermata at the end. The VdG. part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 10-11 and a fermata at the end.

17

T. Rec. (Kö)

Vln. (Som) (gin)

Ct. Ho - - - nig aus. Die Kö - -

Lute (blie) (zo)

VdG. (au) (fo)

25

T. Rec. (Kö)

Vln. (gin)

Ct. -ni - - gin - - nen zo - - - gen

Lute (zo)

VdG.

33

T. Rec. (Kö)

Vln. (gin)

Ct. Schwär - - - me fort,

Lute (zo)

VdG. (fo) (fo)

2. Der Erdbeerschlag

Tenor Recorder

Violin

Countertenor

Lute

Viola da Gamba

der Erd - beer -

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

schlag

war ü - ber Tag ver - dorrt,

8 5

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

die Bee - - ren - samm - - ler kehr -

11

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

ten früh nach Haus.

14

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

3. Die ganze Süße

Musical score for measures 1-7. The score is in 5/8 time and features five staves: Tenor Recorder, Violin, Countertenor, Lute, and Viola da Gamba. The lyrics are: "Die ganze Süße".

- Tenor Recorder:** (gan)
- Violin:** (Sü)
- Countertenor:** Die gan - - - ze
- Lute:** (Stra)
- Viola da Gamba:** (Lich)

Musical score for measures 8-14. The score is in 5/8 time and features five staves: T. Rec., Vln., Ct., Lute, and VdG. The lyrics are: "Süße trug".

- T. Rec.:** (gan)
- Vln.:** (Sü)
- Ct.:** Sü - - - ße trug
- Lute:** (Stra)
- VdG.:** (Lich)

15

(gan)

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

(Lich)

trug ein Strahl

(Sü)

(gan)

(Stra)

22

(Sü)

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

(Lich)

ein Strahl des Lichts

(Stra)

4. In einen Schlaf

Tenor Recorder

Violin

Countertenor

Lute

Viola da Gamba

in ei - nen Schlaf.

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

Wer schief ihn vor der Zeit?

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

Ho - nig und Bee - ren?

17

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

Der ist oh - ne Leid, dem

22

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

al - les zu - kommt. Und es fehlt ihm

27

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

nichts.

Countertenor reads alone:

Und es fehlt ihm nichts, nur ein wenig,
um zu ruhen oder um aufrecht zu stehen.
Höhlen beugten ihn tief und Schatten,
denn kein Land nahm ihn auf.
Selbst in den Bergen war er nicht sicher
— ein Partisan, den die Welt abgab
an ihren toten Trabanten, den Mond.

Movement 5 starts, countertenor continues to read:

Der ist ohne Leid, dem alles zukommt,
und was kam ihm nicht zu? Die Kohorte
der Käfer schlug sich in seiner Hand, Brände
häuften Narben in seinem Gesicht, und die Quelle
trat als Chimäre vor sein Aug,
wo sie nicht war.

The second stanza above is read three times, slower and slower each time, as the music in movement 5 slows down and stretches out.

5. Der ist ohne Leid

Musical score for Movement 5, "Der ist ohne Leid". The score is in 3/4 time and features four instruments: Tenor Recorder, Violin, Lute, and Viola da Gamba. The Tenor Recorder part begins with a rest followed by a melodic line with triplets. The Violin part follows with a similar melodic line. The Lute part features a sixteenth-note scale-like passage with sixteenth-note triplets. The Viola da Gamba part also features a sixteenth-note scale-like passage with sixteenth-note triplets. The score is divided into two systems.

Continuation of the musical score for Movement 5, "Der ist ohne Leid". This system includes the Tenor Recorder (T. Rec.), Violin (Vln.), Lute, and Viola da Gamba (VdG.). The Tenor Recorder part continues with a melodic line. The Violin part continues with a similar melodic line. The Lute part features a sixteenth-note scale-like passage with sixteenth-note triplets. The Viola da Gamba part also features a sixteenth-note scale-like passage with sixteenth-note triplets. The score is divided into two systems.

10

T. Rec.

Vln.

Lute

VdG.

18

T. Rec.

Vln.

Lute

VdG.

25

T. Rec.

Vln.

Lute

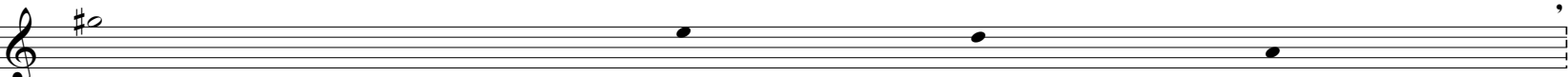
VdG.

**Continue to play the repeating figure
ad lib., slower and slower each time,
as long as the countertenor is still
reading.**

6. Honig und Beeren?

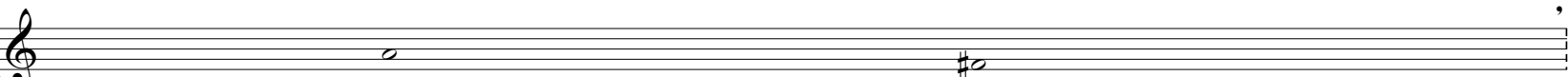
Extremely slow and prolonged, follow speech rhythm of countertenor

Tenor Recorder Spoken _____ nig _____ Bee _____ ,

Violin 

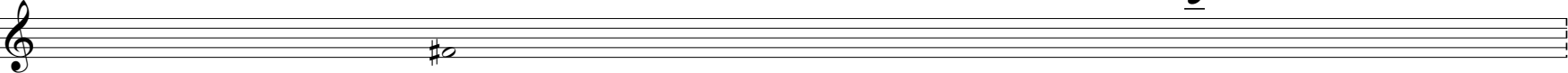
Countertenor Spoken
Ho - - nig und Bee - - ren? ,

Lute Spoken
Ho _____ und _____ ren? _____ ,

Viola da Gamba 


2

T. Rec. Hä _____ er _____ ,

Vln. 

Ct. Hät - - - te er je _____ ,

Lute _____ te _____ je _____ ,

VdG. 

3

T. Rec. den ————— ruch ————— kannt,

Vln.

Ct. den Ge - - - ruch ge - - - kannt,

Lute Ge ————— ge —————

VdG.

4

T. Rec. fol ————— ihm!

Vln.

Ct. er fol - gte ihm!

Lute er ————— gte —————

VdG.

7. Nachtwandlerischer

Tenor Recorder

Violin

Countertenor

Lute

Viola da Gamba

Nacht - wand - - le - risch - er

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

Schlaf im Ge - hen,

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

wer schief ihn vor der Zeit?

15

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

Ei - ner, der alt ge -

20

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

bo - ren wur - de und früh ins Dun - -

23

T. Rec.

Vln.

Ct.

Lute

VdG.

- kel muß.

8. Ein Strahl des Lichts

Tenor Recorder
 Violin
 Countertenor
 Lute
 Viola da Gamba

Die gan - - - ze Sü -

8
 T. Rec.
 Vln.
 Ct.
 Lute
 VdG.

- fe trug ein Strahl

15

T. Rec. (gan)

Vln. (Sü)

Ct. ein Strahl des Lichts an

Lute (tru)

VdG. (Stra)

22

T. Rec. (gan)

Vln. (Sü)

Ct. ihm vor - - bei.

Lute (tru)

VdG. (Stra)

**Countertenor starts reading, movement 9
follows after a few words:**

Er spie ins Unterholz den Fluch,
der Dürre bringt, er schrie,
und ward erhört:
die Beerensammler kehrten früh nach Haus!
Als sich die Wurzel hob
und ihnen pfeifend nachglitt,
blieb eine Schlangenhaut des Baumes letzte Hut.
Der Erdbeerschlag war über Tag verdorrt.

**The stanza above is read three times, slower
and slower each time, as the music in
movement 9 slows down and stretches out.**

9. Ins Unterholz

Musical score for the first system of '9. Ins Unterholz'. The score is in 3/4 time and features four staves: Tenor Recorder, Violin, Lute, and Viola da Gamba. The Tenor Recorder part begins with a rest, followed by a melodic line with several triplets. The Violin part plays a similar melodic line. The Lute part features a rhythmic pattern with triplets. The Viola da Gamba part plays a complex rhythmic pattern with many triplets.

Musical score for the second system of '9. Ins Unterholz', starting at measure 7. The score continues with the same four staves: T. Rec., Vln., Lute, and VdG. The Tenor Recorder part has a 'cresc.' marking. The Violin part has a 'cresc.' marking. The Lute part has a 'cresc.' marking. The Viola da Gamba part has a 'cresc.' marking and a 'dim.' marking at the end of the system.

16

T. Rec.

Vln.

Lute

VdG.

dim.

dim.

dim.

23

T. Rec.

Vln.

Lute

VdG.

29

T. Rec.

Vln.

Lute


VdG.

Continue to play the repeating figure ad lib., slower and slower each time, as long as the countertenor is still reading.

10. Unten im Dorf

Extremely slow and prolonged, follow speech rhythm of countertenor

Tenor Recorder



Violin

Spoken

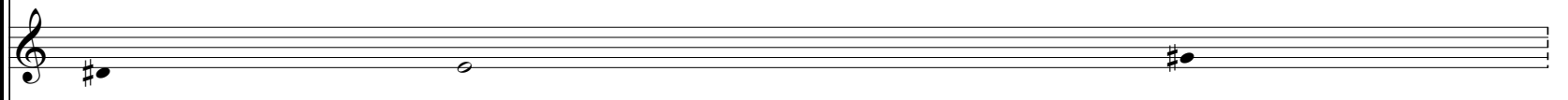
ten Dorf

Countertenor

Spoken

Un - - - ten im Dorf

Lute



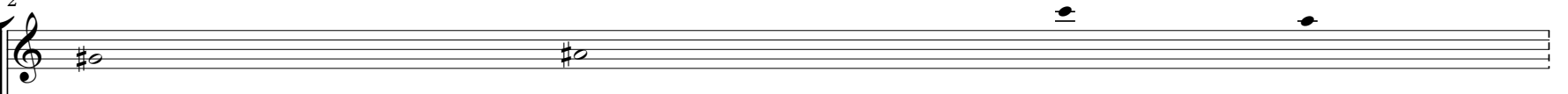
Viola da Gamba

Spoken

Un im

2

T. Rec.




Vln.

den Ei leer

Ct.

stan - - den die Ei - - mer leer

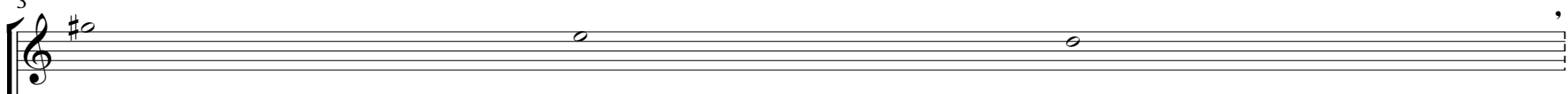
Lute



VdG.


stan die mer

3

T. Rec. 

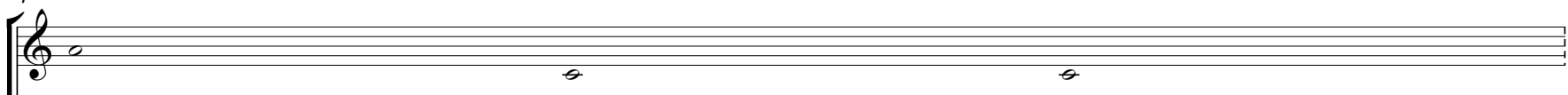
Vln. trom reif Hof.

Ct. und trom - - mel - - reif im Hof.

Lute 

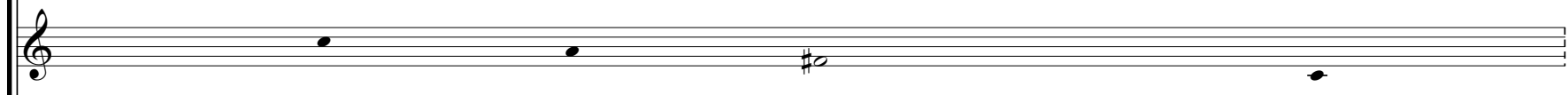
VdG. und mel im

4

T. Rec. 


Vln. schlug Son zu

Ct. So schlug die Son - - ne zu

Lute 

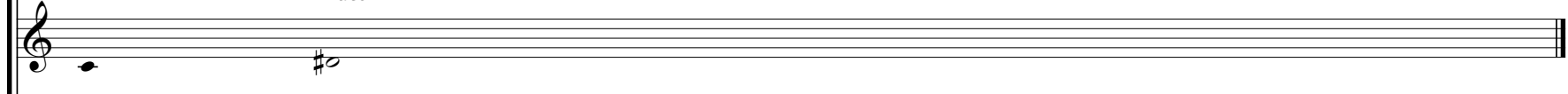
VdG. So die ne

5

T. Rec. 

Vln. wir te Tod.

Ct. und wir - - bel - - te den Tod.

Lute 

VdG. und bel den

Countertenor reads alone:

Die Fenster fielen zu,
 die Königinnen zogen Schwärme fort,
 und keiner hinderte sie, fortzufiegen.
 Die Wildnis nahm sie auf,
 der hohle Baum im Farn
 den ersten freien Staat.
 Den letzten Menschen traf
 ein Stachel ohne Schmerz.

11. In diesem Sommer

Musical score for the first system of "11. In diesem Sommer". The score is in 5/8 time and features five staves: Tenor Recorder, Violin, Countertenor, Lute, and Viola da Gamba. The Countertenor part includes the lyrics "In die sem".

Instrument parts and lyrics:

- Tenor Recorder: (die)
- Violin: (Som)
- Countertenor: In die sem
- Lute: (blie)
- Viola da Gamba: (au)

Musical score for the second system of "11. In diesem Sommer", starting at measure 9. The score continues with five staves: T. Rec., Vln., Ct., Lute, and VdG. The Countertenor part includes the lyrics "Som mer blieb der".

Instrument parts and lyrics:

- T. Rec.: (die)
- Vln.
- Ct.: Som mer blieb der
- Lute: (blie)
- VdG.: (au)

17

T. Rec. (die)

Vln. (Som) (Som)

Ct. Ho - - - nig aus.

Lute (blie) (blie)

VdG. (au) (au)

25

T. Rec. (die)

Vln. (Som)

Ct.

Lute (blie)

VdG.

33

T. Rec. (die)

Vln. (Som)

Ct.

Lute (blie)

VdG. (au) (au)