

Michael Matthews

Six Poems of Novica Tadić
(2008)

for

Mezzo Soprano
Percussion, Harp and Strings

Six Poems by Novica Tadić

I

Toys, Dream

Tonight my mother was born

her infant cry
filled our house
at the outskirts

bathed and so clean
I wrapped her
 in a diaper
and laid her in a crib

from the corner I brought
toys
 blew twice
into a small plastic trumpet

Made the black wooden horse rock

II

I Ask

is the
dinner
ready

I ask
someone who
behind my back
in the nonexistent room

rearranges
the plates

III

I Run with a Pair of Compasses Stuck in the Back of my Head

Down below
I run from street to street
down below
from street to street O Lord
with a pair of your compasses
stuck
in the back of my head

IV

The Rose

In a glove shop
I bought
 black gloves
on a stone ax
 I sharpened my awl

So come to me this evening
knock on my window

Through my window this evening
throw me a rose.

V

The Night Game of the Maker of Faces

From his mouth he takes out
Two petrified butterflies
Ties them with black thread and pulls them
Behind him

 between the moved
Furniture

 the walls look eat each other
The ceiling is surprised

 the butterflies

Hop
And land on each other

 so that his smile

Fall among things
So that he goes on smiling behind his back

VI

Die

I threw
A single die
On the table
Of black marble

Saw
Not one side
Of the cube
Had a mark of a number
There was
Nothing

Instrumentation

Mezzo Soprano

Percussion

Glockenspiel

Kalimba (medium or large; placed on a large Tom Tom for resonance)

Triangle

Japanese Temple Bell (Dabachi)

Jingle Ring/Jingle Stick

Temple Blocks

Bamboo Rattle (or Angklung)

Medium Tam Tam (60-80 cm.)

Tambourine

Large Roto Tom (or Tom Tom)

Harp

8 Violins

2 Violas

2 Violoncelli

1 Contrabass

for Mireille and Michelle

Six Poems of Novica Tadić

I

(Toys, Dream)

Michael Matthews

♩ = 54 *hesitant - emerging from nothingness* *poco accel.* *♩ = 64*

Percussion
Glock.
ppp *cresc.* *mf*

Harp
ppp *cresc.* *mf*

Mezzo-Soprano

♩ = 54 *hesitant - emerging from nothingness* *poco accel.* *♩ = 64*

Violin 1
con sord. *pppp* *p* *senza sord.* *punta d'arco sul pont.* *ppp* *p*

Violin 2
con sord. *pppp* *(al niente)* *pppp* *p*

Violin 3

Violin 4
punta d'arco sul pont. *pppp*

Violin 5
punta d'arco sul pont. *pppp* *p*

Violin 6

Violin 7
punta d'arco sul pont. *pppp* *p*

Violin 8
punta d'arco sul pont. *pppp* *p*

Viola 1
punta d'arco sul pont. *pppp* *p* *ppp*

Viola 2
con sord. *pppp* *p*

Cello 1

Cello 2

Contrabass

poco rit. -----

7

Perc. *dim.* *pp*

Hp. *dim.* *pp*

Mezzo *pp*
To - night

poco rit. -----

Vln. 1 *ppp* *poco*

Vln. 2 *ppp* *pp*

Vln. 3 *ord. con sord.* *pppp* *ppp*

Vln. 4 *punta d'arco sul pont.* *ppp* *p* *pppp* *ppp*

Vln. 5 *punta d'arco sul pont.* *ppp*

Vln. 6 *punta d'arco sul pont.* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vln. 7 *ppp* *mp* *pp*

Vln. 8 *ppp*

Vla. 1 *ppp*

Vla. 2 *senza sord. punta d'arco sul pont.* *ppp*

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Cb. *pp*

Ab Cb Eb A# Eb D# Db

a tempo (♩ = 64)

rit. -----

14 Tam T. Jingle Ring

Perc. *p* *mf* *mp*

Trgl. *p*

Hp. *mp* *p*

Mezzo *p* *mf* *f* *mf* *p*

my mo-ther was born her in-fant cry filled our house at the out - skirts

a tempo (♩ = 64)

rit. -----

Vln. 1 *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

Vln. 2 *pp* *ppp* *ppp*

Vln. 3 *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

Vln. 4 *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

Vln. 5 *ord.* *ppp* *pp* *p*

Vln. 6 *ord.* *ppp* *p* *p*

Vln. 7 *ord.* *p* *ppp* *pp* *p*

Vln. 8 *ord.* *ppp* *pp* *p*

Vla. 1 *ord.* *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Vla. 2 *ord.* *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Vc. 1 *ppp* *p* *ppp* *punta d'arco sul pont.*

Vc. 2 *ppp* *p* *ppp* *punta d'arco sul pont.*

Cb. *ppp* *sul pont.* *pp* *p*

piu mosso

♩ = 76

20

Glock.

Perc. *p* *pp*

Hp. *mp* *p* *8va*

Mezzo *mp* *mf*

bathed and so clean I wrapped her in a dia - per

piu mosso

♩ = 76

Vln. 1 *pp* *ord.*

Vln. 2 *pp* *ord.*

Vln. 3 *pp* *ord.*

Vln. 4 *pp* *ord.*

Vln. 5 *pp* *ord.*

Vln. 6 *pp* *ord.*

Vln. 7 *pp* *ord.*

Vln. 8 *pp* *ord.*

Vla. 1 *pp* *mp* *pizz.*

Vla. 2 *mp* *pizz.*

Vc. 1 *p* *ord. pizz.*

Vc. 2 *p* *ord. pizz.*

Cb. *mp* *arco* *pp*

rit. -----

26

Perc. *p* *pp* *dim.*

Hp. *mp* *p* *p*

Mezzo and laid her _____ in a

Vln. 1 *mp* *pp* *mp*

Vln. 2 *pp*

Vln. 3 *pp*

Vln. 4 *pp*

Vln. 5 *pp*

Vln. 6 *pp*

Vln. 7 *pp*

Vln. 8 *pp*

Vla. 1 *pp* *arco* *mp*

Vla. 2 *p* *mp* *mf*

Vc. 1 *mp* *dim.* *mp* *p*

Vc. 2 *mp* *dim.* *mp* *p*

Cb.

rit. -----

D \sharp E \flat A \sharp G \sharp F \sharp B \flat