

PERUSAL SCORE
NOT FOR USE IN PERFORMANCE
SUPPORT ARTISTS

175

for soprano and piano

by hunter t. johnson

text from Paragraph 175

German Criminal Code, 1935

Background Notes

This work is a reflection on victims of the Holocaust. While the Holocaust is well-known as one of the most tragic acts of hatred against Jewish peoples in history, it was also a genocide intended for various other groups of people. Among those groups were homosexuals, with homosexual men being targeted aggressively. As a gay composer, I write this work to examine the words of hatred inscribed into the highest of criminal laws during the Nazi era in Germany.

*the silenced should never be forgotten
i choose to own the narrative forced on my community by the words of others, and to make
something meaningful and beautiful blossom from their spite and vitriol*

Composer Biography

hunter t. johnson (he/him) is a dynamic young composer with a rapidly growing catalog of choral works, art songs, and chamber pieces. He takes inspiration from issues of social justice and conflict, working to give voice to sentiments and ideas that he feels are ignored in everyday life. In composing vocal works, he seeks poetry and texts that range from those that explore nature and beauty to those that examine social issues such as self-harm, suicide, and other traditionally avoided topics. He has completed commissions for art songs and choral works, including several works for Grammy Award-winning soprano Christine Brewer. Other commissioning ensembles include Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Webster Groves, MO; the Webster University ChordLoks; and the Lindenwood University Concert Choir under the direction of Pamela Grooms.

An active choral musician, hunter has performed with and conducted groups in concerts across the United States. He is one of the co-founders and the conductor of the choral ensemble *catenary*. hunter's composition *Stars* was awarded the 2017 Missouri Choral Director's Association Opus Award, which recognizes an outstanding choral composition by a Missouri-based composer. His works have been performed by the Webster University Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, and Women's Chorus, under his direction as well as that of Drs. Trent A. Patterson and Stuart Chapman Hill.

hunter holds a Bachelor's of Music Degree in Composition from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri, where he studied composition with Dr. David Werfelmann and Kim Portnoy.

for the silenced

175

for soprano and piano

Paragraph 175 of German Criminal Code, 1935

hunter t. johnson

Andante doloroso ♩=98

Voice

Piano

ppp

p droning

painfully

15^{mb}
lightly, as if
from a distance

Ped.

5

pp

ppp

f

an echo, slower

Slowly

9

p

suddenly empty

ppp

15^{mb}
lightly, as if
from a distance

Andante doloroso con rubato ♩=98

14 *pp numb* 3 *mf* *droning*

par-a-graph one hun-dred sev-en-ty five, Ger-man cri-mi-nal code.

Ped.

Slightly slower, more freely

18 *mf* *reciting, as if trained* 3 *an echo, slower*

nine-teen thir-ty five. "A male who com-mits lewd and las-

f *p* *colla voce*

22 *with disgust* *pp subito* *very violently*

civ-i-ous acts with an-oth-er male or per-mits him-self to be so a-bused for

ff violently

15^{mb}

26 *with disgust* **3** *haunting* **f** *aggressive*

lewd and las-civ-i-ous acts shall be pun-ished by im-pri-son-ment

8va *loco*

p *painfully* **f** *aggressive*

Ped.

30 **p** *painfully, with increasing anxiety* **ff** *agonized*

Con-fine - ment Con-fine - ment Con-fine - ment Con-fine -

p *painfully*

Ped.

34 *chesty, like the end of a sob* *sudden, empty* **p** *factual*

- - - ment Con-fine-ment in a

ff *exceedingly harsh* *sudden, empty* **ppp**

15^{mb}
lightly, as if from a distance

39 *sarcastically, turning slowly to horror* **p** *reflective, not too quiet*

pen-i-ten-tia-ry not to ex - ceed ten years..." Con-fine - ment

an echo *loco* *p*

(15).| Ped.

44 *echoing* **Freely** *slowly breaking down*

Con - fine - ment Con-fine - ment Con fine - ment

pp *equal to the voice* *catching the echo*

8vb Ped.

47 **pp** *almost a whisper; broken* *listening for the echo*

Con - fine - ment Con - fine - ment

listening for the echo