

Herz beim Spinnrade

REBECKA SOFIA AHVENNIEMI

2013 (ed. 2018)



For:

Soprano

Grand Piano, prepared

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Program notes

Herz beim Spinnrade is an interpretation of Franz Schubert's Lied *Grätchen am Spinnrade*, based on Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's *Faust*. In Schubert's Lied, Grätchen sits by a spinning wheel and grieves, as she doesn't know whether she will ever see Faust again.

In this work, the music moves from observing the scene to the inside of the experiencing body and its processes. The mechanic and expressive sounds made on the strings of the grand piano might resemble heartbeats, a spinning wheel, and blood moving through the veins. The composition is an echo from the Romantic era and does contain elements of nostalgia — but these are heard as dissolved fragments that are observed from behind an historical veil.

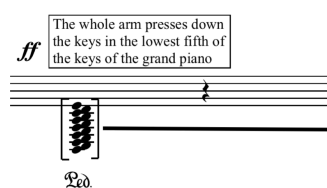
Preparation of grand piano

Metallic resonance

The grand piano is prepared with a metallic object, such as a small cymbal or a fork, placed in the lowest area of the strings. The strings resonate in a metallic way when the keys are pressed down. To prohibit the object from moving around on the strings, or resonating when other keys are played, it can be taped lightly to the frame inside the grand piano.

The effect by this preparation is notated in the score in the following two ways:

1.

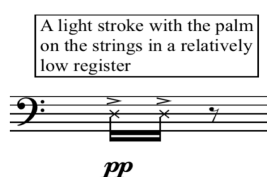


2.



Strokes on the strings with the palm

The pitches are undefined, only the approximate area is suggested. The strokes symbolize heart beats.



Glissandos on the strings

Created with fingers or a guitar plectrum (specified in the score). When several glissandos appear in a row, “gliss.” is mentioned only the first time.

Glissando on the strings
using a guitar plectrum,
in suggested area of scale



Use of pedal

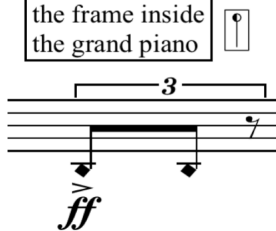
The sound vibrates until a sign for “non ped.” appears. The cluster, for example, resonates in a rich and dominant way through several bars.

When “non ped.” shows under a glissando, the sound disappears immediately, almost as if it were “swallowed” by the piano.

Strokes with a mallet

Strokes on the frame inside the grand piano with a mallet. The strokes symbolize heart beats.

With mallet on
the frame inside
the grand piano



Vocal Techniques

Whispers and inhales

A notehead is marked with an “x” when the sound is whispered or performed as an inhale.

An inhale should be clearly articulated with the vowel that show in parenthesis. Vowel “o” is pronounced as in the word “morning”.

The inhaled pitch is undefined, but the notated pitch suggests a scale area. The curve after an inhaled pitch shows the direction of the intonation: whether the inhale intonates upwards or downwards, or remains static.

The musical notation is on a treble clef staff in 3/4 time. It begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking and the instruction *molto espress.* The first note is a quarter note on G4. The second note is a quarter note on A4, marked with a crescendo hairpin and a dynamic marking of *f*. The third note is a quarter note on B4, marked with a dynamic marking of *f* and a box labeled 'Inhale'. The notehead of the third note has an 'x' through it. A slur covers the first two notes, and another slur covers the third note. Below the staff, the phonetic transcription 'Ruu[u:]_ hh (o)' is written, with a horizontal line under 'Ruu[u:]_'. A diagonal watermark 'NB Potter' and the text 'This music is copyright protected' are overlaid on the image.

“Cries”

Gradual change from singing to crying. The sound—produced either from the diaphragm or by opening and closing the throat—resembles a mixture of laughter and whining. The gesture does not need to be rhythmically precise, but expressive and “grainy”.

The musical notation is on a treble clef staff in 7/8 time. It starts with a box labeled 'Inhale' above the first note. The first note is a quarter note on G4, marked with a dynamic marking of *p*. The second note is a quarter note on A4, followed by a series of six eighth notes on B4, each marked with an 'x' through its notehead. A slur covers the entire sequence of notes. Below the staff, the phonetic transcription '(o) aa - ha-ha-ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha' is written. A diagonal watermark 'NB Potter' and the text 'This music is copyright protected' are overlaid on the image.



Herz beim Spinnrade

Based on "Gretchen am Spinnrade" by Franz Schubert

Rebecka Sofia Ahvenniemi

A

Tempo rubato $\text{♩} = 54$

molto espress.
p \rightarrow *f* *(f)* *legato pp* *p*

Inhale

Voice

Ruu[u:]— hh (o) Ruh mei - ne Ruh mei - ne Ruh mei - ne

Pno.

The lowest fifth of the strings is prepared with a metallic object

With palm on the strings, a relatively low register

pp

The whole arm presses down the keys in the area of the lowest fifth. Metallic resonance.

ff *Red.*

3

accel. $\text{♩} = 66$ *sotto voce ppp* \rightarrow *p* \rightarrow *ppp* A tempo ($\text{♩} = 54$)

Ruh mei - ne Ruh mei - ne Ruh mei - ne Ruh mei - ne

accel. $\text{♩} = 66$ A tempo ($\text{♩} = 54$)

p mp p

espressivo

5

p _____ *f*

Inhale

mf

Ruu _____ h he - rz - st-chweh (o) he - rz - s - t

Glissando on the strings using a plectrum, in suggested area of the scale

gliss.

mp *p* *p*

* Ped.

7

Inhale

Inhale

ord.

f

p

p

mf

(o) (a) Ruh mei-ne Ruh mei - ne Ruh mei-ne Ruh

gliss.

f *p* *p* *mp*

With arm

* (non ped.)

poco ped.

ff
Ped.

mp

10

f

$\text{♩} = 54$

Ruh

Gliss. on the strings, using plectrum

ord. $\text{♩} = 54$

mf *p* *mp* *mp*

* Poco ped.

13 *mp* *p*

mei ne Ruh mei - ne

pp *p*

p *

B *molto legato, agitato* *mf* *p*

15 Mein ar - mer Ko - - - - - p - f ist

B *pp* *f* *mp* *p*

Ped. *

18 *mf* *mp* *f*

mir _____ v[f]e _____ (a) mir _____ ver - rückt

p *f* *mp*

Inhale

gliss.

Ped. * *poco ped.*

20 *cantabile* *ff*

Mein ar - - mer Kopf mein ar - mer_

* poco ped.

22 $\text{♩} = 58$ $\text{♩} = 68$ *agitato* *mp* *gliss.* *f*

aa h

Tempo Rubato

24 *mp* *p* *mf*

From singing to crying Inhale Inhale

aa a-ha-ha-ha ha-ha-ha-ha-ha (o) aa - ha-ha-ha-ha ha-ha ha-ha (o)

Tempo Rubato

mp *p* *mp* With arm

Ped.

*

ff Ped.

27 **C** $\text{♩} = 54$

whispering, no specific pitch *mf* *espressivo* *legato* *f* *ff* *mp* *Inhale* *f*

z t-schweh he-rz t schwehr schwehr schwehr Herz (â) Her-z-tschweh

C $\text{♩} = 54$

With palm on the strings; middle register

mp *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

Metallic resonance 3

f *mp* * Ped.

30 *p*

schw

mp *mf* *p*

mf *mp*

32 *Inhale* *mf* *f*

(a) schwehr schwer he - rz - t

gliss. on the strings using fingers *gliss.* lower register

mf *mp*

* Ped.

6 $\text{♩}=48$ *sognando*

34 *p*

Herz ist schwer Ich fin - de ich

gliss.

above middle register (left hand)

$\text{♩}=48$ *p* *mp* *p*

* *Red.*

36 *mp* *mf*

fin - de sie nim - mer ich fin - de sie nim - mer

accel. *cantabile* $\text{♩}=66$ $\text{♩}=48$

Gliss. on the strings, using plectrum (right hand)

gliss.

mf *p* *f* *mf*

* *fff* *Red.*

38 *p* *sognando*

Mei ne Ruh

With mallet on the tree

Metallic resonance

p *3* *mp* *mf* *mp*

mf *p*

D ♩ = 64

agitato

mf

Inhale

mp

no specific pitch

p

Inhale

40

Mein ar - mer_ Kopf mein_ a - a a - a (a) ha ha ha ha ha (a - a)

D ♩ = 64

above middle register

mf

*

42 ♩ = 56

whispering, no specific pitch

p

Schwer

♩ = 56

mp

mf

Gliss. on the strings using fingers
gliss.

p

poco ped.

Ped.

♩ = 64

Inhale

cantabile

mf

45

mp

Schwer_ (o)

Mein

ar -

-

mer

Sinn

a - -

-

gliss. on the strings, using plectrum
gliss.

♩ = 64

mp

mf

mf

mp

mf

* non ped.

poco ped.

Tempo Rubato

48

mp *gliss.* *gliss.* *p* *f* *gliss.*

ar - mer aa (a) a - h

mf *f*

Tempo Rubato

51

$\text{♩} = 74$ $\text{♩} = 64$ *cantabile, legato* *p*

Sei-nes

$\text{♩} = 74$ $\text{♩} = 64$ *p* *mp*

Gliss. on the strings, using plectrum, high register

gliss. *mp* *ped.*

(poco ped.)

E $\text{♩} = 54$

54

mp *pp* *mp*

Mun - - des Lā - cheln Sei - ner A - au - -

$\text{♩} = 54$ *p* *pp* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *p* *mf*

(ped.) *p* *pp* *mp* * *ped.*

57 *p*

gen ge - walt Mun - - des

59 *mf* *mp* *p* **Tempo Rubato**

Inhale whispering, no specific pitch

Lä - cheln (o - o) lä-cheln lä-cheln (o)

Tempo Rubato
Gliss. on the strings, using plectrum
gliss.

p *mf* *f*

f

61 $\text{♩} = 52$

$\text{♩} = 52$

With palm on the strings

p *mf* *f*

63

Gliss. on the strings, using plectrum

gliss.

mp

(o)

(non ped.) *

65

f *mf* *p* *mf*

(o) (o) (a)

a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a - a

Crying irregulare

Gliss. on the strings, using plectrum (right hand) (left arm)

ord. Metallic resonance

f *ff* *mp*

Ped.

67

Inhale *p* Exhale Inhale

a a - a - a - a (o) o (o)

With palm on the strings

p

69 Exhale Inhale Exhale Inhale

mp *mf*

o (o) o a

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is for the voice, starting at measure 69. It contains four notes: 'o', '(o)', 'o', and 'a'. Above the first two notes are boxes labeled 'Exhale' and 'Inhale'. Above the last two notes are boxes labeled 'Exhale' and 'Inhale'. The notes 'o' and 'a' are marked with dynamics *mp* and *mf* respectively. The piano accompaniment is in the bass clef, with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. A wavy line with an asterisk is located below the piano staff.

