

Guttorm Kittelsen

In Memoriam

Solo Piece for Flute in G





To My Beloved Father

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Guttorm Kittelsen: In Memoriam

Comment

In Memoriam was written in honor of my father. He died in 1984 at the age of 67.

Since then, In Memoriam has been performed frequently in regular concerts by different instrumentalists. The piece is also well suited as an encore. It is melancholy, the 3'30" to 3'50" duration is a suitable length, and the ending with the A La Cadenza makes a peaceful end statement. In Memoriam is also used extensively at funerals and other occasions where worship, adoration or honor is called upon.

This small piece has a very clear form, and even if the printed music looks simple, the long lines and the phrasing demand quite a bit of skill from the performer. Also, the non-vibrato parts must be interpreted correctly. They are meant to express the abyss of emptiness I felt losing my father. Because of these interpretation challenges, the piece has also been used by some of my colleagues when working with students.

I usually write very slow when I compose, but In Memoriam came to me in pure inspiration because of the grief I felt losing my father. Therefore, the first handwritten version was completed in about two hours.

In Memoriam was originally written for guitar. It may seem strange to some, as the piece has only a single melodic line, but that simplicity is what I wanted regardless of the harmonic potential of the guitar. However, in 2022 I decided to add octaves in the melodic line from two bars before the letter C and for the next 10 bars. I also added octaves in the last bar before the A La Cadenza. In the A La Cadenza I added three chords: G minor, F minor and C minor.

I had planned to honor my father by performing In Memoriam myself, but it turned out to be too hard, so instead my sister-in-law Rigmor Heistø Strand, performed the piece beautifully on horn at its first performance. I have later transcribed In Memoriam for use with other instruments as well.

In Memoriam has been recorded and released on CD by Lise Strandli Pedersen (violin) and Torolf Mørk Karlsen (alto flute in G). Torolf Mørk Karlsen, Povilas Syrrist Gelgota (viola) and Terje Nymark (clarinet) has performed it on You Tube and other social media.

I have so far written arrangements for flute in C, flute in G, oboe, clarinet in A, clarinet in Bb, bassoon, horn, guitar, violin, viola, cello and string bass.

The score is available by contacting me or NB noter (The National Music Library):

*E-mail: noter@nb.no, nb@nb.no
Phone: (+47) 23 27 60 00, (+47) 23 27 63 00
Phone consultants: (+47) 23 27 61 03, (+47) 23 27 63 04
Opening hours: Monday-Friday 09.00 am-03.30 pm (summer 03.00 pm)
Visitor address: *Henrik Ibsens gate 110, Oslo (Solli plass)*
Visitor address: *Finsetveien 2, Mo i Rana**

Nesbru, 10th June 2023



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Flute in G

In Memoriam

v = Recommended breathing
(v) = Breathe only if necessary

To My Beloved Father 30/11-1984
SOLO PIECE

Guttorm Kittelsen
Revised 10/6-2023

♩ = 60

A *tempo rubato*

B

C

Al *a tempo*

a la cadenza



