

Bente Leiknes Thorsen  
Who do you  
want to be?

for solo piano (and narration)



2019

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Commisioned by Susanne Kessel  
and "250 piano pieces for Beethoven"

with support from TONO



## TEXT AND NARRATION

- The text in this piece can be performed by the pianist or a separate narrator.
- It is to be narrated in a casual way, not theatrical.
- Feel free to translate the text to the performer's native tongue.

### THE TEXT

You know  
we don't know who she was

was she a woman he proposed to?  
was she the recipient of his affection?  
or the pupil of a beloved one?

Does it really matter?

In a world that forgets its Barbaras and  
Claras and Agathas and Fannys  
we remember this woman  
even when we don't know who she was  
because she was in his memory

who do you want to be, Elise?

*Men...*

*vi vet ikke hvem hun var*

*var hun en han fridde til?*

*var hun en han beundret?*

*eller var hun eleven til en han hadde kjær?*

*har det egentlig noe å si?*

*I en verden som glemmer sine Barbaras og*

*Claras og Agathas og Fannys*

*så blir vi minnet om denne kvinnen*

*selv om vi ikke vet hvem hun var*

*fordi hun hadde en plass i hans minne -*

*hvem vil du være, Elise?*

DURATA: approx. 2 min.

# NOTATION

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extra long fermata

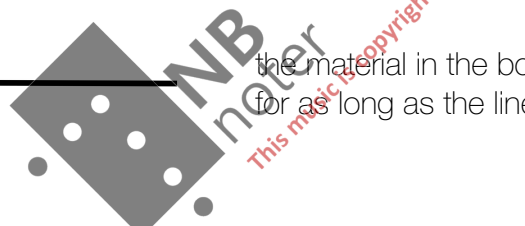


stopped note (finger on string)

the diamond notes are to be pressed down silently  
(and they are kept open with the sostenuto pedal)

the sostenuto pedal

the material in the box is to be repeated  
for as long as the line indicates



# Who do you want to be?

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*mf* *l.v.* *narration*  
You know we don't know who she was

*pp* *acc.* *pp* *pp*  
*mf* *mf*

was she a woman he proposed to?

was she the recipient of his affection?  
*irregular ritardando* *p*

or the pupil of a beloved one?  
*8va*  
*as fast as poss.* *a tempo*  
*f* *pp*

Does it really matter?

*mp*  
*And.*

Detailed description: A single staff of music in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a half note D5. The dynamic is marked *mp* and the tempo is *And.*

*rhythmically steady (piano) , change pitch with text*

In a world that forgets its Barbaras and Claras and Agathas and Fannys

*ppp cresc al. . .*

Detailed description: A piano accompaniment for the text 'In a world that forgets its Barbaras and Claras and Agathas and Fannys'. The music is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a steady eighth-note pattern in the left hand. The dynamic is *ppp* and the tempo is *cresc al.*. The text is written in boxes above the staff, with dashed lines indicating the pitch changes.

we do remember this woman even when we don't know who she was

Detailed description: A piano accompaniment for the text 'we do remember this woman even when we don't know who she was'. The music is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a steady eighth-note pattern in the left hand. The text is written in boxes above the staff, with dashed lines indicating the pitch changes.

because she was in his memory

*allegro con brio*

*mf* *ff*

Detailed description: A piano accompaniment for the text 'because she was in his memory'. The music is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a steady eighth-note pattern in the left hand. The dynamic is *mf*. The tempo is *allegro con brio*. The text is written in boxes above the staff, with dashed lines indicating the pitch changes. The right hand has a melody with a *ff* dynamic.

who do you want to be - Elise?

*mf* *p*

Detailed description: A piano accompaniment for the text 'who do you want to be - Elise?'. The music is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a melody with a *mf* dynamic. The text is written in a box above the staff, with dashed lines indicating the pitch changes. The right hand has a melody with a *p* dynamic.