

El mensaje más claro:

A compositional journey to the root of my voice as a singer-songwriter

Jelena Ćirić

Master of Music Candidate in Contemporary Performance (Voice)

Berklee College of Music, Valencia Campus

Culminating Experience Paper

Summer 2014

yo soy de los que van a ninguna parte...
(translation by the author)

i am one of those who are going nowhere,
those who, upon feeling love, know they have arrived.
i come from where they read me, not from where they mention me.
i am searching for the same as you: peace, love,
the happiness of being among my own,
to watch my daughter grow up,
to fully enjoy the time I have with my parents.

i renounce, by writing,
climbing the ladder, distance, the stars.
all of my faith is placed on laying my foundations
and if I think of growing, it will always be downward,
to find the taproot,
the clearest message.

if you ever feel that I am addressing you directly,
be certain that it is so and don't hesitate to contradict me.
i am recounting that which I have just seen – felt –
of the universe that lives within us:
we are not so different, only sometimes distant.

you passing by here is not chance,
i am learning a lesson with this meeting;
don't leave me with a white notebook
God doesn't let us stay silent.







The musical score consists of three systems, each with a Flute (Fl.) staff and a Double Bass (D.B.) staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat major/C minor).

System 1:

- Fl. Staff:** Starts with a common time signature (C) and a repeat sign. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes.
- D.B. Staff:** Accompaniment with chords: G^b , A^b , A^b/C , and D^b .

System 2 (Measures 46-49):

- Fl. Staff:** Measure 46 has a first ending bracket (1) over the first two measures. Measure 48 has a long note with a fermata. Measure 49 has a repeat sign.
- D.B. Staff:** Accompaniment with chords: G^b , A^b , and D^b .

System 3 (Measures 50-53):

- Fl. Staff:** Measure 50 has a second ending bracket (2) over the first two measures. Measure 51 has a key signature change to two flats (B-flat major/C minor). Measure 52 has a long note with a fermata. Measure 53 has a repeat sign.
- D.B. Staff:** Accompaniment with chords: E^b_{MIN}/G^b , F^7 , B^b_{MIN} , and D^b .

Figure 1: Bridge of "Carried". Flute melody and chord progression from "Žubor voda žuborila".

$\text{♩} = 60$
 Voice *mf* Mi-le mo-je pre-ko re-ke. Pre-ko re-ke, pre-ko re-ke, Mi-le mo-je pre-
 Double Bass arco
 - ko re - ke. — Što me va - raš kad sam de - te?
 D.B.

Figure 2: Excerpt of "Mile moje". Transcription of original melody, with bass playing second voice.

69 Fl. *Pre-ko re - ke, pre-ko re - ke, Mi-le mo-je pre - ko re - ke.*

69 D.B. *arco*

73 Fl. *Što me va - raš kad sam de - te? Kad sam de - te, kad sam de - te, što me va - raš kad*

73 Pno. *A*

73 D.B. *Bm B♭aug D/A G♯m7(♭5) Gmaj7 Bm Bm7/A Bm7/F G7 Bm Bm7/A E/G♯ Gmaj7(add9)*

Figure 3: Excerpt of "Mile moje". Traditional melody with newly composed bass line and harmony.

Next Station
St. Clair

Southbound To
Union



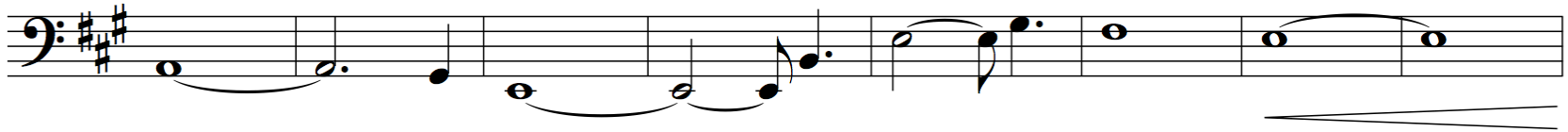
DAVISVILLE

EXIT

To Street



27



35

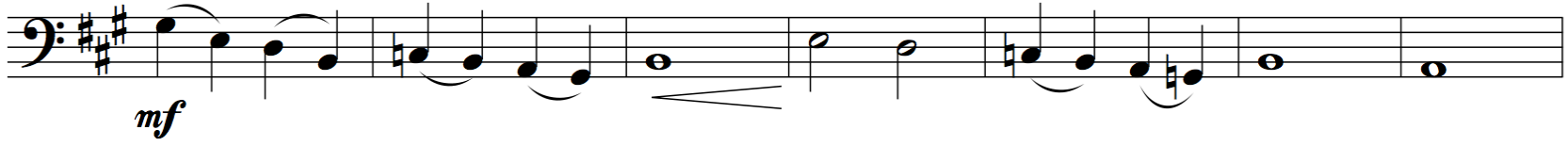


Figure 4: "Davisville" cello part excerpt.



43

Se - lo se - lo mo - je o - ki - ce - no go - rom o - ki - ce - no go - rom.
 Vi - tom, vi - tom je - lom i ze - le - nim bo - rom i ze - le - nim bo - rom.
 Sa - di sa - di ma - la bo - ro - ve i je - le bo - ro - ve i je - le.
 Ja cu ja cu ru - ze ru - me - ne i bje - le ru - me - ne i bje - le.

46

46

Se - lo se - lo mo - je o - ki - ce - no go - rom o - ki - ce - no go - rom.
 Vi - tom, vi - tom je - lom i ze - le - nim bo - rom i ze - le - nim bo - rom.
 Sa - di sa - di ma - la bo - ro - ve i je - le bo - ro - ve i je - le.
 Ja cu ja cu ru - ze ru - me - ne i bje - le ru - me - ne i bje - le.

Fine

Figure 5: "Selo, selo moje" transcription.

Traditional Serbian lyrics:

Selo, selo moje okićeno gorom, okićeno groom.
Vitom, vitom jelom i zelenim borom, i zelenim borom.
Sadi, sadi mala borove i jele, borove i jele.
Ja ću, ja ću ruže, rumene i bjele, rumene i bjele.

Translation:

My village, decorated by the mountain,
by the tall fir and green pine.
Plant, little girl, pines and firs,
I will (plant) roses, red and white.

Original lyrics:

Cradled by the mountains of blood red stone,
Pines stretch their branches over buried bone.
You're only there to visit, but the welcome is warm,
And a party breaks out like the day you were born.

Faces shine brightly lit by burning oak.
This is the promised land, can you see it through the smoke?
Give away the songs you've been clutching in your hands,
They're the waning roses of the promised land.



Original first verse:

Black thumbs, blue hands.
Stuck in a city you can't stand.
Strangers staring in the streets,
Secrets hiding in the sheets.

You rent a room, it's pretty bare,
You're barely ever there.
You go where you are led,
Empty heart or empty bed.

Revised:

Black thumbs, blue hands,
Stuck in a city you can't stand.
Strangers staring in the streets.

You rent a room, the drawers are bare,
You're only ever there
To hide your secrets in the sheets.



