LEVADI (ALONE)

by

Diane Thome

for soprano and tape
The poetry of Chaim Nachman Bialik, which inspired the present work, has had a
special meaning for me since my sixteenth year when I wrote a ballet based on his
poem, IN MY GARDEN. Having decided to write a solo voice and synthesized tape
composition, I began to search out other poems of this great Russian-Jewish writer of
the Haskeliah, the Jewish enlightenment. The particular text chosen, while it alludes to
specific historical events, also contains a multitude of haunting images and associations
which awakened deep responses in me. I was also impressed with the rich melodic
resources of Ladino songs and I incorporated certain sephardic or sephardic-style
melodies in the soprano part while simultaneously providing a tapestry of other voices
in the tape. These layerings reappear in various guises and textures throughout the
work, suggesting a compositional analog of certain recurrent elements in the poem.

For the creation of the tape portion, a Yamaha DX-7, TX-7, QX-7, REV-7, CX-5M
computer, mixer and 4-track tape recorder were used. I wish to thank Robert Austin
for his collaboration in the realization of the tape. I also wish to express my
appreciation to Samuel Roskin for his enlightening discussions of the Hebrew text, and
to Issac Maimon for his Ladino translation.

LEVADI was commissioned by the Belle Arte Concerts for Montserrat Alavedra, who
has recorded it on the Opus One label. It is dedicated to my mother and my
grandmother.

Diane Thome
ALONE

The wind carried all of them away
the light swept all of them away
A new song made the morning of their lives
exult with song:
And I, a soft fledgling, was completely forgotten
from the hearts of all
under the wings of the Shekinah.

Solitary, solitary I remained, and the Shekinah too;
She fluttered her broken right wing over my head
My heart understood her heart; she trembled with anxiety
over me, over her son, over her only son.

She has already been driven from every corner
Only one hidden nook, desolate and small, remained
-- the House of Study -- and she covered herself
with the shadow, and I was together with her
sharing in her distress.

And when my heart yearned for the window, for the light
and when the place under her wing was too narrow for me,
she hid her head in my shoulder, and her tear
dropped on my Talmud page --

Silently she wept over me and enfolded me
as though shielding me with her broken wing:
"The wind carried them all away, they have all flown off
and I was left alone, alone ...."

And something akin to a very ancient lamentation
and something akin to a prayer, a supplication-and-trembling;
My heart heard in that silent weeping
and in that tear, churning --

English translation by T. Rüblner
LEVADI (Soliko)

--Chaim Nachman Bialik

El ayre los careyo leshos, la luz los bario a todos.
Un cante nuevo alevanto la manyana de sus vidas
I yo pasharico kedí olvidado de todos los corasones
Debasho las alas de la Shehina.

Soliko, soliko kedí i la Shehina tambiéén.
Meneó su ala derecha, rota, ensima mi cabeza
Tembló con esperansa sobre mí, sobre su ijo regalado
I mi corason entendió su corason.

Fué aronjada de cada rincón.
Solamente uno, escondido, desolado i chico kedó
-- la Casa de Estudio -- i se abrigo con solombre
Yo con eya sufriendo en la estrechura.

Mi corason dezeyava la ventana i la luz
Cuando el lugar debasho su ala era muy estrecho para mí.
I escondió su cabeza en mi espalda
I su lagrima cayo en la oja del Talmud.

Cayada eya yoro i me abrasó
I paresia ke me estava protectando con su ala rota:
"El ayre los careyo a todos leshos, todos bolaron afuerá
I yo kedí soliko, soliko ...."

Una cosa ke asemejava a una alguaya vieja,
A una orasion, a una rogativa,
Sintió mi corason en este yoro sin boz
I tembló en esta lagrima cayente.

Ladino translation by Issac Maimon
rey o los ca-

shos, la

luz la luz los
bar - io
los
bar - io a
to
dos.
leggiardo
Un
canté vovoco nuevo a levantolamanya nadé sus vidas

yo pa... rico ke... ol-vi-da do de...
todos las corazon

de la Shehina.

basho las alas de basho las alas
Cuando el lugar

basho su a

escondido su ca
be-sa-en-mies-pal-da

I-su-la-grima-ca-yo

en la o-ja del Tal-mud.
pro-tec-tan-do con su a-la ro-ta:

"El ay-re los ca-rey-o"

los ca-rey-o a to-dos le-shos,

to-dos bo-la-rón a fue-ra I yo,

ke-di so-li-ko

El
Ay re los carroyo, los carroyo a to-dole-shos

Yo ke-di so li ko, so

Lik-so li-ko...
Sop.

Sentió mi corazón en

Tape

es-te-yo-ro sin boz

Sop.

tembió en esta lágrima

Tape
ca - yen - te
Sin - tio mi co - ra son en
es - te yo - ro sin boz
I - tem - bli6 en es - ta