

# Lúa Descolorida

voice & piano

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UE 70035



## Notes on *Lúa Descolorida*

"A dead man in Spain is more dead than anywhere else" said García Lorca, explaining that Spanish poets define rather than allude. *Lúa Descolorida*, a poem written in Gallego (the language of the Galicia region in Spain) by Lorca's beloved Rosalía de Castro, defines despair in a way that is simultaneously tender and tragic. The musical setting is a constellation of clearly defined symbols that affirm contradictory things at the same time, becoming in the end a suspended question mark. The song is at once a slow motion ride on a cosmic horse, : homage to Couperin's melismas in his *Lessons of Tenebrae*, velvet bells coming from three different churches, heaven as seen once by Yeats, a death lullaby, and the ladder of Jacob's dream. But the strongest inspiration for *Lúa Descolorida* was Dawn Upshaw's rainbow of a voice, and I wanted to give her a piece so quietly radiant that it would bring an echo of the single tear that Schubert brings without warning in his voicing of a G major chord. There are two versions of the song, written for specific musicians: one for Gil Kalish's pearl piano playing, the other for the early morning bows of the Kronos Quartet.

*Oswaldo Golijov*

## Lúa Descolorida

by Rosalía de Castro

Lúa descolorida

como cor de ouro pálido,

Vesme i eu non quixera

me vises de tan alto.

Ó espazo que recorres,

Lévame, caladiña, nun teu raio.

Astro das almas orfas,

Lúa descolorida,

eu ben sei que n'alumas

tristeza cal a miña.

Vai contalo ó teu dono,

e dille que me leve adonde habita.

Mais non lle contes nada,

Descolorida lúa,

pois nin neste nin noutros

mundos teréis fortuna.

Se sabe onde a morte

ten a morada escura,

dille que corpo e alma xuntamente

me leve adonde non recorden nunca,

nin no mundo en que estou nin nas alturas.

## Colorless Moon

by Rosalía de Castro

Moon, colorless

like the color of pale gold:

You see me here and I wouldn't like you

to see me from the heights above.

Take me, silently, in your ray

to the space of your journey.

Star of the orphan souls,

Moon, colorless:

I know that you don't illuminate

sadness as sad as mine.

Go and tell it to your master

and tell him to take me to his place.

But don't tell him anything,

Moon, colorless,

because my fate won't change

here or in other worlds.

If you know where Death

has her dark mansion,

Tell her to take my body and soul together

To a place where I won't be remembered,

Neither in this world, nor in the heights above.

translation by Osvaldo Golijov

# Lúa Descolorida

for Dawn Upshaw and Gilbert Kalish

Slowly rocking

Osvaldo Golijov (b. 1960)

Infinitely tender: "Couperin" - "Lullaby", (as in the letters of "Leçons de Tenebres")

Text: Rosalía de Castro (1837-1885)

**Voice**

*p* *mp* *p* *bloom* *mp*

Ay

**Piano**

*p*, a breeze *pp* *p*

4 *p* *start in mezzavoice*

Ay Lúa - a des - co - lo - ri - da co - mo

8va

*p*, legato slow motion ride on a cosmic horse sim.

7

cor de ou - ro pá - li - do, ves - me ves - me i eu nonqui

(p)

10

- xe - ra me vi - ses de tan al - - - to.

12

Ó es - - pa - - - so que re - co - rres, lé - va -

liquid, sweet

15

- me, ca - la - di - ña, nun te - u ra - - -

18

8va... - - io.

21 *dark*

Ast - ro das al - mas or - fas lú - a des - co - - - lo -

24 *inward*

- ri - da, lú - a eu ben sei que n'a - lu - mas tris - te - za cal a

27

mi - ãa. Vai con - ta - lo ó teu do - no, e

30 *delicately* *fade slowly*

di - lle que me le - ve a - - don - de ha - bi - ta.

velvet bells

33 delicate *tr* *5* *6* *3* *3* *3*

the melody on the foreground

36 top voice always dim. *8va* *7* *5* *3*

40 *pp* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

Mais non lle con - tes na - da, des - co - lo - ri - da lú - a, pois nin nes - te nin

*8va* (bells) *p / pp* (harp)

43 resigned, becoming darker

nout - ros mun - dos te - réis fer - tu - na. Se sa - be on - de a mor - te

47

ten a mo - ra - - da es - - cu - ra, di - lle que cor - po e

*pp* (down until fermata)

50

al - ma xun - ta - men - te me le - ve a - don - de non

dissolving ..... gradually

55

re - cor - den nun - ca, nin no mun - do en que es -

dissolving ..... (l.v.)

*p* quietly radiant *tr*

59

- tóu nin en las al tu - - ras.

*pp* (Ossia: stay on Bb)

8va ..... 8va -