

Lágrimas y Locuras

Mapping the Mind of a Madwoman



Joelle Wallach

Lágrimas y Locuras

Program Note

Lágrimas y Locuras, *Mapping the Mind of a Madwoman*, is a Lisztian piano work commissioned by pianist Ana Cervantes for her Monarca Project. In it Joelle Wallach returns to her ongoing musical exploration of psychological landscapes.

The folksong, *La Llorona*, on which ***Lágrimas y Locuras*** is based, tells the story of a Mexican Indian woman who, while still young and beautiful, meets a Spanish conquistador as he rides past the river outside her tiny town. They fall in love, marry, have two children and live in a palace in Mexico City. When he is called back to Spain, she waits in her small town by the river for his return. And it is by the river she sees him again, riding in a grand carriage with his new blond Spanish bride. He doesn't recognize her, changed and aged as she has been by years of yearning under the searing Mexican sun. Furious, she rushes to the riverbank and, crazed by rage, betrayal and humiliation, drowns their two children.

Forever after, she is doomed to pace the banks of Mexican rivers, weeping. For *La Llorona*, no memory, no reflection or recollection - no matter how sweet - can remain untouched by guilt, anger and the bitterest regret.

Lágrimas y Locuras, *Mapping the Mind of a Madwoman*, does not recount the verbatim story of *La Llorona*, but instead imagines *La Llorona*'s tempestuous inner monologue as she walks, eternally distraught, along the banks of innumerable Mexican waterways. The virtuosic piano work reveals her infuriated interior monologue, railing against her fate, against the betrayal of her lover and against the result of her own impetuous rage. It deconstructs the simple melody of the folksong to explore the state of mind of that woman walking endlessly, alone and weeping, at war with her own past, her thoughts, her memories and her conscience in a relentless avalanche of sorrow, remorse and wrath. Each time her thoughts return to simple scenes of past happiness, love or family, the melody within her twists, writhes and rages through strange, unexpected, distorted textures and tonalities.

Performance Notes

- Per notational convention, accidentals remain in force throughout the measure in which they appear. Any chromatically altered pitches revert to those in the key signature after each barline unless otherwise indicated.
- Hard to reach chords may be quickly broken so long as the momentum of the line is not interrupted.
- Please sustain long notes and chords with pedal when a hand is required in moving voices elsewhere. Holding the pedal across harmonic changes or through shifts of mood or color is part of the blurry aesthetic narrative of the work.
- When notes or chords are difficult to reach in time, allow for the dramatic forgiveness of narrative *rubati*.

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♩=108 Con rubato

mp *mf* *p* *subito mf*

4 15

f

Poco meno mosso

18

subito p dreamy

A tempo ♩=108

21

mf ma dolce

24

poco a poco.

26

3 3

27

mf *ff*

29

Poco maestoso

mf *ff*

33

$\text{♩} = 48$
A tempo

mp dainty.

34

noisy yet intrusive, bell-like, like tinnitus

6 36

poco f

38

f clumsy & insistent

R.H.

41

A tempo ♩=108

subito mp like a distant, twisted carnival waltz

45

ben f

48

mf

sfz

poco ritenuto

51

Musical score for measures 51-53. The piece is in a key with three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. Measure 51 features a complex texture with sixteenth-note runs in the right hand and a bass line with eighth notes. Measure 52 continues the texture with a fermata over the final note. Measure 53 begins with a dynamic marking of *sf* (sforzando) and features a seven-measure rest in the right hand, indicated by a '7' above the staff.

54

Musical score for measures 54-58. Measure 54 has a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and the instruction *faltering*. Measure 55 includes a crescendo hairpin. Measure 56 has a dynamic marking of *pp* (pianissimo) and the instruction *dolcis*. Measure 57 features a fermata over the final note. Measure 58 continues the texture with a fermata over the final note.

59

Musical score for measures 59-63. Measure 59 features a complex texture with sixteenth-note runs in the right hand and a bass line with eighth notes. Measure 60 continues the texture with a fermata over the final note. Measure 61 has a dynamic marking of *pp* and a fermata over the final note. Measure 62 features a dynamic marking of *pp* and a fermata over the final note. Measure 63 continues the texture with a fermata over the final note.

64

Musical score for measures 64-68. Measure 64 features a complex texture with sixteenth-note runs in the right hand and a bass line with eighth notes. Measure 65 continues the texture with a fermata over the final note. Measure 66 has a dynamic marking of *pp* and a fermata over the final note. Measure 67 features a dynamic marking of *pp* and a fermata over the final note. Measure 68 continues the texture with a fermata over the final note. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' below the staff in measure 67.

Meno mosso

69

Musical score for measures 69-73. Measure 69 features a complex texture with sixteenth-note runs in the right hand and a bass line with eighth notes. Measure 70 continues the texture with a fermata over the final note. Measure 71 has a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) and a fermata over the final note. Measure 72 features a dynamic marking of *f* and a fermata over the final note. Measure 73 continues the texture with a fermata over the final note. The tempo marking *A tempo* is placed above the staff in measure 72.

A tempo

8 73

p momentary lapse

This system contains measures 73 and 74. Measure 73 features a treble clef with a complex chordal texture and a bass clef with a similar texture. Measure 74 continues the texture with a dynamic marking of *p* and the instruction "momentary lapse".

75

f

This system contains measures 75 and 76. Measure 75 includes a treble clef with a triplet of eighth notes and a bass clef with a similar texture. Measure 76 features a dynamic marking of *f* and a treble clef with a complex chordal texture.

77

This system contains measures 77 and 78. Measure 77 features a treble clef with a complex chordal texture and a bass clef with a similar texture. Measure 78 continues the texture with a treble clef and a bass clef.

79

mf wierdly sweet

This system contains measures 79, 80, and 81. Measure 79 features a treble clef with a complex chordal texture and a bass clef with a similar texture. Measure 80 includes a dynamic marking of *mf* and the instruction "wierdly sweet". Measure 81 continues the texture with a treble clef and a bass clef.

82

f

This system contains measures 82, 83, and 84. Measure 82 features a treble clef with a complex chordal texture and a bass clef with a similar texture. Measure 83 includes a dynamic marking of *f*. Measure 84 continues the texture with a treble clef and a bass clef.

86

mp

8va

89

mp

8va

(8) (loco)

91

ff

mp

Più mosso

93

f

mf

8va

(8)

95

(8)

98 *8va*

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

100 (8)

3 3 3 3 3 3 3

f

102

mf but forceful

7 (#)

105

f

107 *poco rall.*

poco
mp dolce

This system contains measures 107 through 110. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo marking is *poco rall.*. The music features a complex texture with many beamed notes and slurs. A dynamic marking of *mp dolce* is present. A *poco* marking is also visible. The bass line includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 109.

110

mf

This system contains measures 110 through 113. The key signature changes to three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab). The music continues with dense textures and slurs. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present. The bass line features a triplet of eighth notes in measure 112.

113

ff

This system contains measures 113 through 115. The key signature remains three flats. The music features a dynamic marking of *ff*. The bass line includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 114.

115

ff

This system contains measures 115 through 118. The key signature remains three flats. The music features a dynamic marking of *ff*. The bass line includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 116.

117

gliss.
gliss.

8va

sempre f (forceful but exhausted)

120

cristallo

8vb

123

pp lontano

(8)

5'07.8''