

“Rage, Rage Against the Dying of the Light”

for piano duet

Colin G. Johnson

Programme Note

In 2018, I rediscovered this piece, which—judging from the date on the computer file—I must have written shortly after my father’s death in the summer of 2013; I could hardly remember writing it. I revised it, slightly, early in 2018. The piece is based on two kinds of material. The first is a quiet, still sequence of chords with a tiny amount of ornamentation, played a number of times identically. The second is a series of loud gestures at the extremes of the range of the piano. Each pianist is responsible for both kinds of material; the hand towards the middle of the piano playing the chords, the one towards the extreme playing the gestures. This is both a practical necessity, due to the distribution of the material and a way of focusing the players’ attention on each other’s playing, as the chords must be played with great care and coordination.

Length

Approximately four minutes.

Practical Note

This piece is presented in two formats. Firstly, there is a standard score. Then, for practicality, the traditional piano duet format, with the rightmost player’s part on the right-hand pages and the leftmost player’s part on the left-hand pages.

Biography

Colin Johnson is a composer with wide interests, ranging from straightforward pieces for acoustic instruments to music theatre works and frameworks for improvisation.

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Score Format

"Rage, Rage Against the Dying of the Light"

Colin G. Johnson

A

Lento

Piano 1

L.H. *pp* sempre

Piano 2

R.H. *pp* sempre

A

10

Pno. 1

R.H. *ff* sempre

8^{va}

Pno. 2

L.H. *ff* sempre

8^{vb}

15

Pno. 1

8^{va}

B

Pno. 2

B

8^{vb}

19

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

8va

8va

23

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

C

C

8vb

8vb

8va

8vb

8vb

27

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

8va

8va

8vb

8va

8va

8vb

31 (8) *8va* **D**

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

34 *8va* *8va*

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

8vb

39 *8va* **E**

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

8vb

43

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

8^{va}

8^{vb}

46

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

15^{ma}

8^{vb}

48

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

15^{ma}

F

F

8^{vb}

51 *8va*

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

54 *8va*

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

8^{ub}

8^{ub}

56

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

8^{ub}

8^{ub}

8^{ub}

Piano Duet Format

SECONDO *Lento*

A

1

Secundo

R.H. pp sempre

10

Sec.

L.H. ff sempre

8^{vb}

B

15

Sec.

8^{vb}

19

Sec.

C

23

Sec.

8^{vb}

27

Sec.

8^{vb}

1

Pr.

L.H. *pp* sempre

10

Pr.

R.H. *ff* sempre

8va

15

Pr.

8va

B

19

Pr.

8va

23

Pr.

8va

C

27

Pr.

8va

SECONDO

D

31

Sec.

34

Sec.

8vb

E

39

Sec.

8vb

43

Sec.

8vb

46

Sec.

8vb

F

48

Sec.

8vb

31 *8va*

Pr.

34 *8va*

Pr.

39 *8va* E

Pr.

43 *8va*

Pr.

46 *15ma*

Pr.

48 *15ma* F

Pr.

SECONDO

51

Sec.

54

Sec.

56

Sec.

PRIMO

51 *8^{va}*

Pr.

54 *8^{va}*

Pr.

56

Pr.