

# Withered

for voice & percussion

*for Maureen E. Gibbons*

Dennis Báthory-Kitsz

Westleaf Edition W714

The slick marble slabs mumble what they see:  
 two grave faces; worn on pathetic heads,  
 reflect six dead mums broken from their bed.  
 (Two grave faces, of my mother and me,  
 shroud all thoughts of what once meant family.  
 Plotting each holiday how to plant red  
 tulips or forget-me-nots we have bred,  
 and then find they turn up dead.) Tragedy.  
 After tugging to unplant the pot from  
 ground, moist earth clings to spring coats, winter palms;  
 (Two think, one says, "I wish we didn't come  
 here. I'd imagine live chrysanthemums.")  
 Spigot water relieves, by no means calms  
 four tense hands wary of flowers to come.

Maureen E. Gibbons

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voice eleven water glasses (tuned to 1/12 tones) five cymbals (tuned) two paper juice cans wind chimes gong five timpani

th / v / f / m etc. are sounded consonants and have pitch.

ⓐ through ⓑ are dynamic levels

simultaneous notes between points/parts:



glissando:



glissando:



3/4 flat flat 1/4 flat natural 1/4 sharp sharp 3/4 sharp

Each staff is approximately 10 seconds. Pitches are relative, interaction is imperative.

# Withered

Dennis Báthory-Kitsz

drop lentils on 5 cymbms. (1)

Th → e →

s ----- lick mar ----- ble s ----- la ----- bs

random on top three → (1)

hard rubber mallets (4) (2) (1)

(2)

M- ⇨

(3) (4) (1)

(M ⇨)

um-ble what they see

pitches random, rhythm strictly paced

soft rubber mallets (3) continue pattern

(5) metal strikers

hard mallets (5)

(1) (2)

3 4 in rhythm with above 5

2  
two ⇨

(two) g<sup>^</sup>--- ra --- ⇨ 3 x(e) fa ---- ce -- ⇨

1 3 4

-8 worn on pa- th ----- et ---- ic hea ----->

soft mallet 4

soft mallet 3

soft mallets 4  
felt cloth on heads

7 4

ds re -- <=> fle -- <=> ct

fist at center

8 4

wooden (snare) sticks

6 7

si - x dea -- -d m̄ - u -- m̄s

3 1 1

8 9

b-ro ----- ken from their be -

3 handfuls of lentils for constant light shimmer

timpani sticks 9

3 2 1

two grave fa-ces o f my mother and ----

2 1

drum fingers on timpani

1 2

1 (whisper)

me sh-rou d a - ll thoughts

soft mallets 1 (roll)

1

①

of what once meant fa- mi- ly

(roll)

head covered with cloth; wood stick

②

③

③

③

②

improvisational  
exchange  
of  
play: →  
sharp, short attacks

④

⑤

②

①

③

⑥

①

p-lot- ting ea- ch hol-i-day how to plant red tu -- lip-s

continue improvisational exchange →

(whisper) -----,   
 (s ⇨ ) OR forget me no -- ts we ha-- ve b- re- d   
 continue improvisational exchange ⇨ feel into ... ⇨



a- n - ⇨ d f- i- ⇨ n- d th- e- y   
 5 soft, cloth-covered rubber mallets 2



t- ur- n u- p dead   
 1 2   
 rub fingers (wet) on heads 1

(whisper) -----

t- ra- ⇨ ge- ⇨ dy

Af-ter tug-ging to un- plant the po- t from ~~g~~ ~~r~~ o- u- ~~r~~ ⇨ d m- ⇨ o- ⇨ i- ⇨ s- t

(whisper)

ear - ⇨ -th e- lings to s- p- ring

soft mallets (1) tiny metal strikers (1) soft mallets (1)

2

coats wi - nte - r pa - lms

wooden sticks 1 2

stop with hands

stop with hands

short, stopped

short, stopped

2 0

Two think o - ne says I

( I ) w - i - sh w - e

( I ) w - i - sh w - e

unstopped

(e ⇨ ) d- i- d- n'- t c- o- me here

I' - d i - m - a - gi - ne

l - i - ye chry-san-the-mu-

roll 0 2 0

(mu ⇨ ) ms

hard rubber lentils 1

fist 9

spi-got wa-ter re-lieves by no means ca- lms f - ou - r tense

4

h a nds wa - ry o - f flo -

3

we - rs to c - o - mé

*Trenton, July 1971*