

Christian Holmqvist

På moln stod du!

for baritone (or bass) and piano

(J.J. Wecksell)

2017



Music Finland

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Christian Holmqvist:

På moln stod du!

for baritone (or bass) and piano
to words by Josef Julius Wecksell

composed in 2017

duration 6'

Josef Julius Wecksell (1838-1907) was one of the most talented and admired Swedish-speaking Finnish writers. As fits a romantic poet, his mental health was always a bit unsteady. In 1865 he had to be committed to a mental asylum, where he spent the last 42 years of his life. Wecksell's last poem, På moln stod du! (You stood on clouds!), was published in 1863. It was initially seen as nothing more than a rather weird scribble, showing signs of a deranged mind. But the hallucinatory treatment of symbols and surreal images is certainly not done at random, and one could argue that Wecksell consciously strived for a new poetic language. His last poem is a pre-modernistic masterpiece written by an artist on the brink of disaster, not by a man already destroyed by schizophrenia.

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På moln stod du! Jord voro dina fötter och din tanke
räckte upp till Gud!

Dina ögon slog du upp och var atom i ditt sinne
var en skapelse.

Du sträckte ut din hand och sade: vad är du?
och det var luft.

Och din ande gick ut och du såg stjärnor och solar
fara förbi som moln

Och du ropade: himmelen stod under Guds fötter.

Och därovan var mörker dit ingen hann och du
visste din moders liv och du önskade en kvinna.

Och en poppel stod grön i det innersta av ditt öga
och din storhet försvann och du låg som en tår
på din egen fot i din egen glans
och molnet var försvunnet.

(J.J. Wecksell)

You stood on clouds! Your feet were earth and your thought
reached up to God!

You opened your eyes and each atom of your mind
was a creation.

You reached out your hand and said: what are you?
and it was air.

And your spirit departed and you saw stars and suns
pass swiftly like clouds

and you cried: the sky stood under the feet of God.

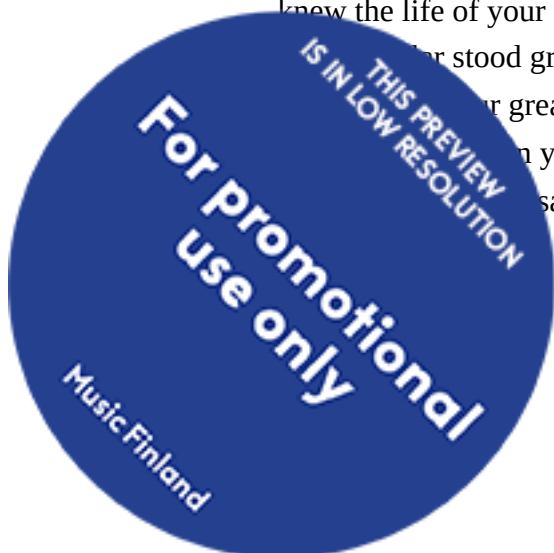
And there above was a darkness too far away for anyone and you
knew the life of your mother and you desired a woman.

And a popple stood green in the furthest deep of your eye

and your greatness and you rested like a tear

on your own splendor

and the cloud had disappeared.



På moln stod du!

för baryton/bas och piano

J.J.Wecksell (1838-1907)

Christian Holmqvist 2017

Andante ♩ = 80

quasi campane

ff

f

Allegretto

cello

cello

5

8

p

8

p

På moln stod du! Jord

På moln stod

Jord

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vo - ro di - na fött - er

*cresc.**f*

och din tan - ke räck - te upp till Gud!



mf

*rit.**a tempo**p*

Di - na

p



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23

ö - gon slog du upp och var a - tom i ditt sinn - e

23

26

rit.

a tempo

var en ska - pel - se. Du

26

29

sträck - te ut din hand och sa - de: vad är du?

29

32

mf

espr.

p

32

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35

rit.

38

p espr.

Och din an - de gick ut

41

poco cresc.

och du såg stjär - nor och so - lar fa - ra för - bi som

44

*f**p*

och du ro - pa-de:

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47

p

himm - e - len stod un - der Guds fött - er.

50

*rit.**a tempo*

espr.

pp

p

53

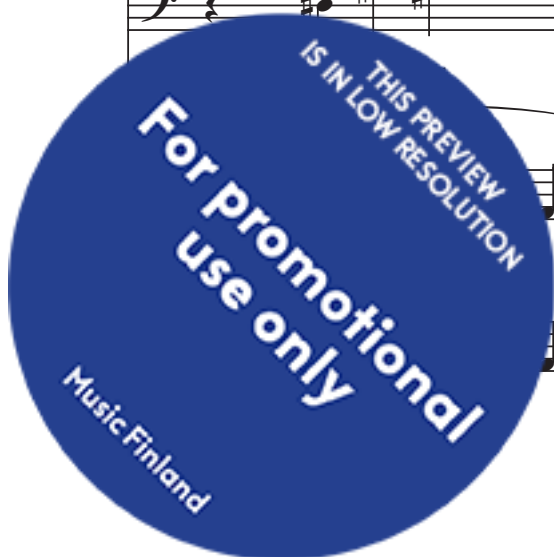
p

Och där - o - van var mörk - - - er,

56

*cresc.**f*

dit ing - - - et hann



f

p

och du viss - - - te din mo - - - - ders

f

liv och du

önsk - - - a - de en kvinn - - - a.

f

Och en popp - el stod grön

i det inn - er - sta av ditt

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70

ö - - ga och din stor - het för - svann

p

molto rit.

73

p

f

76 **Tempo primo** ♩ = 80 ***ff***

och du låg som en tår

quasi campane

ff

Red.

79

din e - - - - gen fot

Red.

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82

85

87

90 **a tempo al fine, non rit.**

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