

James Else

one hour

based on *Lyric*
a poem by Pauline Kirk

composed for York Late Music
to be performed by Jeremy Huw Williams & Nigel Foster

Lyric

If you counted the moments today
 When I've grieved for you
 They'd total no more than sixty I'd say,
 A mere hour, one in twenty-four -

Not a lot for a lifetime;
 Less than I have spent in eating,
 Far less than sleeping,
 Just a little more than making tea.

And yet I have not wanted
 To give even so much; instead
 Concern has startled: a sickness
 In my mouth when the 'phone went,

A memory of years
 Returning while I've washed up crocks.
 Sixty terrors is enough for any day.
 I am too far away

To offer grapes and sympathy,
 And there's no cure in tears.
 All I can give is these few fears,
 And one hour in twenty-four.

Pauline Kirk

Programme Note

one hour is based on the poem *Lyric* by Pauline Kirk. It reflects the thoughts and feelings of the text as it explores the themes of grief and contemplation. Starting with a simple haunting refrain, it then builds in speed as thoughts tumble out one after another, before returning to the more desolate texture of the beginning. Playing with ideas of time, relationships and freedom, a recurring high *Db* sounds 24 times in the piano, mirroring the idea of one hour in twenty-four.

Performance Note

Although some of the rhythms may appear complex the piece should be performed in an easy, flowing style. While elements of rubato are written into the rhythms the performers may still take some freedom in their approach, allowing each phrase to breathe.

The piano part should be pedalled carefully, allowing the harmonies to resonate and the high *Dbs* to be sustained over the piano texture.

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Flowing (♩ = 64)

James Else

Baritone

mp

one hour one hour in twen-ty - four.

Piano

mp

6

A mere hour, one in twen-ty - four one

11

hour one hour in twen-ty - four. A mere hour,

16 *mf*

one in twen - ty - four If you

mf

19

coun - ted the mo - ments to - day When I've grieved for you They'd

mf

21 *mp* placed

to - tal no more than six - ty I'd say, A mere hour, one in twen - ty - four

mp

25 *mf*

Not a lot for a life time; Less than I have spent in eat - ing,

mf

27

8 Far less than sleep-ing, Just a lit-tle more than mak - ing

29

voice and piano drift apart, coming together as times

8 tea. And yet I have not wan-ted To

31

8 give e - ven so much; in - stead Con - cern has start - led: a

(triple semiquavers)

33

8 sick - ness In my mouth when the 'phone went, A

35

me - mo - ry of years Re - turn - ing while I've washed up crocks.

37

Six - ty ter - rors is e - nough for a - ny day.

39

I am too far a - way

40

desolate
p

I am too far a-way To of-fer grapes and sym - pa - thy, And there's no cure in tears. All

43 reflective

I can give is these few fears, And one hour in twen-ty - four. one

47

hour one hour in twen-ty - four. A mere hour,

52

one in twen-ty - four one hour one hour in twen-ty

57 *mp*

four. A mere hour, one in twen-ty - four

mp