GERARDO DIRIÉ

miseras hominum mentes

(2019)

On texts from Lucretius De rerum natura

for SATB chorus and bandoneon
miseras humanum mentes

for SATB chorus and bandoneon

I. nova luna (S, A and bandoneon)
II. O miserás humanum mentes (S1, S2, A, T, B and bandoneon)
III. Denique non lapides (S, A, T, B)
IV. Necpietas… (S, A, T, B and bandoneon)
V. Interlude (solo bandoneon)
VI. nova luna [ultra repris] (S, A, T, B and bandoneon)

Notes from the composer

This composition was inspired by selected passages from De rerum natura, by the Roman poet and philosopher Lucretius (c. 99 BC- c. 55 BC). In some sections, he offers expressive tirades on the habits of thought and behaviour that he observed in his contemporaries, particularly in what he saw as differentiating the human tendency to destructive delusions from the philosopher’s contemplation and pursuit of understanding of the universe. I felt his impassioned rhetoric immediately resonating like the verses of Discépolo’s tango Cambalache (1934)—another literary milestone in the uncompromising portrait of civilization’s persisting afflictions. My choice of the bandoneon as obligato instrument for this composition seeks to farther highlight the alternations between gutsy critique and the contemplative disposition.
nova luna

Cur nequeat semper nova luna creari
ordine formarum certo, certisque figuris...

...for which reason the moon always presents
a clear shape, and defined outline...

De rerum natura V, 730
nova luna

Gerardo Dirié

Text by Lucretius

De rerum natura V, 730

Sopranos

Altos