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A Fragment, A Memory
For Elliott

for solo piano
Chris Cresswell

A Fragment, A Memory: For Elliott (2012)
for solo piano

Written for
Elliott Carter

Premiered on November 10th, 2012
by Sar-Shalom Strong at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY.

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Completed on November 8, 2012 in Brooklyn, NY.

Program Notes:

Written on November 8th, 2012, *A Fragment, A Memory* is a short work for solo piano. I had the great pleasure of meeting Mr. Carter on a handful of occasions, including visiting his apartment to deliver his 103rd birthday card. He was and remains a huge inspiration for me personally and creatively.

The opening is built around two [014] trichords based around the pitch of A, set a tritone apart. [C#AC] [F#AF] These two trichords are quickly turned into fleeting figures in the right and left hands, interacting with each other until they climax on a single trichord [BbDB]. This 'fragment' resolves down to the A, which sets up the quotation of Elliott Carter's setting of, "this is mortality, this is eternity" from his 2009 work, *What Are Years?* superimposed on one another. This quotation develops and eventually resolves on a D# and F# which forms the basis of a second set of [014] trichords set a tritone apart from the opening gesture. [GEbGb] [CEbB]. This chord is repeated in bass while the opening chord is repeated in the treble. These two chords slowly fade out until only the opening chord is quietly articulated one last time.

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The work was premiered by Sar-Shalom Strong at Hamilton College on November 10th, 2012. www.chrisresswellmusic.com



Presenting Elliott Carter with his 103rd birthday card.

"A Fragment, A Memory"

For Elliott

Chris Cresswell

Solemn $\text{♩} = 52$

8va

Piano

ppp *pp* *p*

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accel.

mp

mf

2

(8va)

Lyrical

13

subito *p*

ff

(This is e - ter -

(This is mor - tal - i - ty)

slight cresc.

18

ni-ty)

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rit.

Broader

23

p

pp

mp

p

(8va)

29

ppp

pp