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 chrysanths here.")
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

\hspace{1in} etc. are sounded consonants and have pitch.
\hspace{1in}\textcircled{0} through \textcircled{9} are dynamic levels
simultaneous notes between points/parts:
\hspace{1in} glissando:

\hspace{1in} 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.
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drop lentils on 5 cymbs.

random on top three

hard rubber mallets

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um-ble what they see

pitches random, rhythm strictly paced

soft rubber mallets

continue pattern

metal strikers

hard mallets
in rhythm with above
soft mallet

fist at center

wooden (snare) sticks

six dead parums
b- ro ------------ ken rom their be -

handfuls of lentils for constant light shimmer

timpani sticks

two grave faces off pray prayer and

drum fingers on timpani

(whisper)

shrouded a -

soft mallets (roll)
of what once meant family

(roll)

head covered with cloth; wood stick

improvisational exchange of play:

sharp, short attacks

plotting each holiday how to plant red tu -- lip-s

continue improvisational exchange
or forget me not we have read

(whisper)

continue improvisational exchange

feel into ...

soft, cloth-covered rubber mallets

rub fingers (wet) on heads
After tug-ging to un-plant the pot from

ear-th

lungs to

tiny metal strikers

soft mallets
coats wi→ nte→ r pa→ lms

wooden sticks

stop with hands

short, stopped

Two ⇔ think o→ ne says I ⇔

(I ⇔ ) wi→ sh ⇔ w-e ⇔

unstopped
(whisper) 636 (e        )
d-         i-         d- n'-      t
       o-            me here

l' -  
I' -               d

(whisper)
chry-san-the-
mu-

hard rubber
lentils 1

fist 9

spi-got wa-ter re-lieves by no means
calms four tense
Trenton, July 1971