

M. Shulman

Opera in One Act

Desire to Sleep

By Chekhov

Instrumentation:

Clarinet in B-flat

Bassoon

Horn in F

Percussion: Snare Drum

Chain or 2 big kitchen knives

Cymbal

Bass Drum

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Characters: Varjka (Soprano)

Master (Bariton)

Pelagea (Soprano)

Yefim (Bariton)

"Baby crying" recording

Duration: 25 minutes

“Desire to Sleep”

The plot:

Act 1.

Night. Masters house. Varjka, 13 years old, shaking the cradle and singing a lullaby. She fights for not fall asleep, but finally she is falling asleep.

Morning. The master, who just waked up, sees the sleeping girl. He getting closer to her, hits her suddenly on the neck and pulls her ear. Then, he makes her do house works in the course of the day. Between the chores she is falling for a couple of minutes to a dream about her parents. **The dream:** Yefim (father), who knows that he is going to die, suffering on the floor. His wife begging him to go to see a doctor. After all of this she takes him to the hospital. Then the sun rises, she comes back alone now and tells that Yefim gave his soul to God this morning. She doesn't know how she will deal with this situation by herself.

The master is shouting on Varjka again and continuing to send her for chores. Varjka is wearing out. Evening. When Varjka begins to prepare for sleep, she is hearing the last task – to shake the cradle! She is craving for a way to sleep and after thinking some she finds one. Varjka approaches the cradle and strangles the baby. Now Varjka is falling asleep with smile on her face.

Desire to Sleep

by
A. P. Chechov

Masters home

M. Shulman
(2003)

3/4 Moderato $\text{♩} = 54$ Varjka shaking the cradle (she is very tired)

Clarinet in B \flat *p* (*rubato*)

5 Wood Blocks/
Temple Blocks *p* *mf* *mf* 6

Cl. *pp* *p*

Bsn. *p*

W.Bl. *mf* 6 3

Vln. *p*

Cl. *mf* 6 3

Bsn. *mf* 6 3

W.Bl. *mf* 6 3

Vln. *mf* 6 3

Cl. *mf* 6 3

Bsn. *mf* 6 3

Hn. *mf*

W.Bl. *mf* 6 *p* 6

V. *p* 6 Varjka: *p*

Vln. *mf* pizz. 4/4 2/4

Vla. *p* *sf* pizz. 4/4 2/4

Cb. *sf*

Ба ю
Ба уу

26

Bsn.

Hn.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

ба ю ба ю ба ю ба юш ки ба ю ба ю ба ю

ba yu ba yu ba yush ki ba yu ba yu ba yu

29 $\frac{4}{4}$

Hn. f p 3

а я пе сен ку спо ю ба ю
а уа пе сен ку спо уу ба уу

Vln. f p

Vla. f p 3

Vc. f p 3

Cb. f p 3



33

Bsn. f p 6

Hn. *cresc.*

Ах... как спать хо чет ся
Ах... kak spat hochet sa

Vln. *cresc.* p

Vla. *cresc.* p

Vc. *cresc.* p 3

Cb. *cresc.* p 3