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SHINUH LEE

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*Caprice No. 4*  
*Totentanz*

for Solo Violin  
(2022)



## **Composer's Notes**

In 2020 when commissioned a piece for the RAM's 200 Solo Pieces bicentenary project, I was on my sabbatical in Moseley UK, and it was in the middle of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

'Totentanz' explores element of darkness and uncertainty. It is a spiritual reflection of this unforgettable time of plague. The piece starts from transformations of melodies of the Dies Irae, a Gregorian Chant. Transformations through glissandos, micro-tones, extended techniques and also rhythmic complexity, gradually regain the original form of the chant, which is plain, simple, and transparent.

This piece is my humble wish of "hope" from this uncertain, dark period, to remember and celebrate for the bicentenary of the Royal Academy of Music in 2022.

\*\*Micro-tones and asymmetrical rhythms such as 10:9 along with textural transformations are served for a certain timbre, so that it is more important to create a timbre as "character" than its absolute pitch and rhythmic value.

Caprice No. 4 'Totentanz' is one of a collection of 200 solo pieces written to celebrate the bicentenary of the Royal Academy of Music in 2022.

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# Caprice No. 4

## Totentanz

for solo violin (2022)

SHINUH LEE

**A** ca. 92 Grottesco, Barbaro, Espressivo e Rubato

Violin

*aggressive and harsh* 9:7

molto vib. like quartertone trills

*f* < *sfz* > *ff*

3

molto vib. like quartertone trills

< *sfz* > 11:10 < *sfz* >

5

11:9

*rit.*  
molto vib. like quartertone trills

*sfz* < *sfz* > *sfz* *ffff*

*a tempo*

1

poco a poco sul pont. 9:7 sul pont. sul pont. sul pont. extreme

molto vib. like quartertone trills

*pp* < > *ff*

9

poco a poco sul pont. sul pont. ord. molto vib. like quartertone trills sul pont. extreme

molto vib. like quartertone trills

*pp* < > *fff*  
*sotto voce*

11

ord. poco a poco sul pont. 11:9 *rit.* molto vib. like quartertone trills sul pont. extreme

molto vib. like quartertone trills

*sfz pp* < *p* > *mf* *ffff*

② *a tempo*  
ord. poco a poco sul pont. *fff*

15 ord. *f sf*

17 rit. poco a poco sul pont. ③ *a tempo*  
ord. *fff p sotto voce*

19 poco a poco sul pont. ord. *fff p sotto voce sf*

21 rit. poco a poco sul pont. sul pont. extreme *p fff*

④ ca. 72 *Lacrimoso, Espressivo e Rubato*  
ord. *p dolce*

26 rit. *a tempo p* rit.

⑤ *a tempo molto vib. mf* molto vib.

33 rit. molto vib. *a tempo molto vib. rit. ff*

**B** (6) ca. 84 Grottesco, Barbaro, Molto Espressivo e Rubato  
aggressive and harsh, extreme 9:7

molto vib. like quartertone trills

molto vib. like quartertone trills

rit.  
molto vib. like quartertone trills

(7) a tempo  
poco a poco sul pont. 9:7 sul pont.

poco a poco sul pont. ord. sul pont. ord. molto vib. like quartertone trills sul pont. extreme

ord. 11:9 rit. molto vib. like quartertone trills sul pont. extreme

(8) a tempo

poco a poco sul pont. 10:9

52 *rit.*  
poco a poco sul pont.

9 *a tempo*  
*ff* *fff*  
poco a poco sul pont.

56 *ff* *sf* *ff*  
*rit.*  
poco a poco sul pont. sul pont. extreme

58 *fff* *subito p* *dolce*  
ca. 72 **Lacrimoso, Innocente (clean, less emotion)**

61

**(11) Molto Espressivo e Rubato**  
*molto vib.*

64 *mp*  
7:6

67 *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *fff*  
*a tempo* *molto vib.* *rit.* *molto vib.*

70 *f* *cresc.* *molto vib.* *molto vib.* *molto rit.* *fff*

**C (12) ca. 84 Grotesque but with innocence like a chant**  
*mp* *molto vib. like quartertone trills* *fff*  
9:7



75 *molto vib. like quartertone trills*  
*mp* *11:10* *f* *ff*

77 *rit. molto vib. like quartertone trills*  
*mp* *11:9* *ffff*

⑬ *a tempo*  
*p* *9:7* *mf*

81 *vib.*  
*p* *11:10* *sotto voce* *f*

83 *rit. vib.*  
*p* *11:9* *ffff*

⑭ *a tempo*  
*mp sotto voce* *13:12* *ff*

87 *mp sotto voce*  
*mp sotto voce* *10:9* *ff*

89 *non vib.* ⑮ *non vib.*  
*f* *p sotto voce* *13:12* *mf*

92 *p*

16 **Lacrimoso**

94 *espress.*

96 *poco rit.*

**D** 17 **ca. 72 Lacrimoso, Innocente (clean and transparent)**

*mp*

100

102 *dim.* *p*

104 *mp* *p* *poco a poco diminuendo*

*morendo*

107

*pppp*

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