Program Notes

My Trilogy for oboe and harp has as its motto the last two stanzas of Rainer Maria Rilke's Sonette an Orpheus, II.10. (Printed here in boldface type are the three phrases used as mottos for the three parts of Trilogy.):

Aber noch ist uns das Dasein verzaubert; an hundert Stellen ist es noch Ursprung. Ein Spielen von reinen Kräften, die keiner berührt, der nicht kniet und bewundert.

Worte gehen noch zart am Unsäglichen aus . . .
Und die Musik, immer neu, aus den bebendsten Steinen, baut im unbrauchbaren Raum ihr vergöttliches Haus.

But existence is still enchanting for us; in hundreds of places it is still pristine, A play of pure forces, which no one can touch without kneeling and adoring.

Words still peter out into what cannot be expressed . . .
And music, ever new, builds out of the most tremulous stones her divinely consecrated house in unexploitable space.*

Each of the three sections of Trilogy was written for a special occasion.

INNER SONG (which has the motto: Worte gehen noch zart am Unsäglichen aus . . .) was written for a festival of Stefan Wolpe’s music in Witten, Germany, in April, 1992, for Heinz Holliger to perform, to whom it is dedicated. The fascinating friendship with Wolpe is a very treasured memory.

Elliott Carter

Duration of INNER SONG: ca. 5 minutes

INNER SONG

Edited by Heinz Holliger

Elliot Carter
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Worte gehen noch zart am Unsauberen aus... (Rilke)

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