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October in Galicia

for soprano and chamber ensemble, with tape

by

Karen J. Siegel

A composition submitted to the Graduate Faculty in Music in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, The City University of New York

2014

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This manuscript has been read and accepted for the Graduate Faculty in Music,
in satisfaction of the dissertation requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Professor Jeffrey Nichols

Date Chair of Examining Committee

Professor Norman Carey

Date Executive Officer

Professor David Olan

Professor Joseph Straus

Professor Tania León

Supervisory Committee

The City University of New York

Abstract

**October in Galicia
for soprano, chamber ensemble and tape**

by

Karen J. Siegel

Adviser: Professor Tania León

October in Galicia is a setting of selections from the Czech poet Ewald Murrer's fantastical book, *The Diary of Mr. Pinke*, translated into English by Alicie Pišt'ková. The surreal day-to-day happenings of Mr. Pinke occur in a timeless group of villages revealed by a translator's note to be modeled on the historical region of Galicia (now part of Poland, Ukraine, and Russia). The tape part (or more accurately the digital audio files), which appears in "October 23rd," consists of an organ recording that has been manipulated electronically. The electronic manipulations are subtle enough that the original pitches are always recognizable; therefore, the tape part is notated as pitches in the score.

Instrumentation

soprano

flute

oboe

clarinet in B flat

bassoon

horn in F

percussion (1 player):

glockenspiel

tambourine

marimba

2 violins

viola

cello

double bass

organ, pre-recorded and electronically manipulated

Performance Note

To obtain the audio files and parts for performance, please email chestnutoak@gmail.com.

Text

October 1st

A cockcrow

in the day's din.

A wonderful rumor reached the village, even my ears. Apparently Mr. Fuks catches his unicorns here in our region. He cuts off their horns and sells them as talismans. The horn of a unicorn brings good luck (as does the unicorn). It is also medicinal, it cures evil spells, jinxes, thin blood, aches of the head as well as those of the soul.

The nature of a unicorn is to act as a sentry. The unicorn is the silent protector of secret knowledge. A taciturn scholar. A wise visionary.

Mr. Fuks sells the unicorn, whose horn he has cut off, as an unusual breed of horse. These horses do not remain with their buyers long, however, for they bolt at the first chance.

This animal can only be caught with the help of a virgin.

Mr. Fuks has a daughter, Abigail.

October 4th

The voices of dogs

beyond the mountains.

Early morning, a dream chased me from bed. A difficult dream. The white body of a unicorn flying above me. I could not breathe, I was sweating.

The unicorn's horn pierced the sky. Stars poured swiftly to the ground like fruit blossoms.

The Fuks' awoke around five in the morning. I do not exactly know the time, there is no clock in the house.

We rode donkeys in the cool dew.

We came to a stop in mysterious, fragrant marshes. Fuks slouched with his finger at his lips. Abigail whispered something into her hands.

In those places, it was as if there were no sunrise. Quite the opposite, the darkness thickened.

Silently, we waited.

And finally, from the distance, a unicorn was approaching.

Abigail closed her eyes and, for some time, did not open them. Fuks tinkered with something by the donkey. I stared mutely at the magnificent animal, that dream come to life.

Then it happened. Abigail cried out. My unicorn ran off. We returned empty-handed. Surreptitiously, they looked at me. Perhaps I was the cause of the failure.

Then silently, it drizzled. The landscape went damp.

October 23rd

*Are you not the moon,
you have such a white face.

I saw you behind the hill
and you fled.*

I read through bulky old books with the rabbi. The rabbi blew the dust off their spines.

Unicorns reveal themselves in dreams. In the rabbi's books, we discovered the ancient homeland of these animals.

Organ music from the heavens.

Score in C

October in Galicia

Ewald Murrer

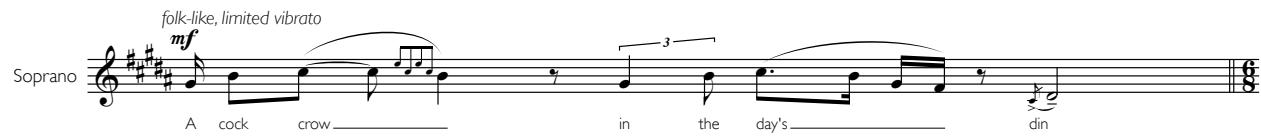
Alicie Pišt'ková, translation

Karen Siegel

October 1st

Soprano *mf* folk-like, limited vibrato

A cock crow _____ in the day's din



d. = 72 Rustic

Sop. *mp* warm, normal vibrato

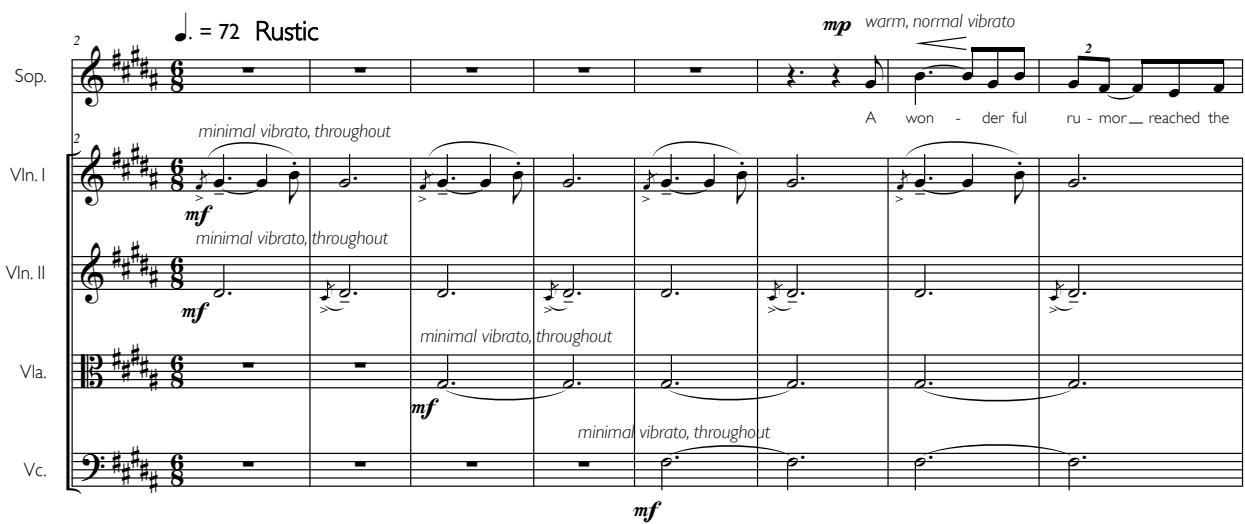
A won - der ful ru - mor reached the

Vln. I minimal vibrato, throughout *mf* minimal vibrato, throughout

Vln. II minimal vibrato, throughout *mf* minimal vibrato, throughout

Vla. minimal vibrato, throughout *mf* minimal vibrato, throughout

Vc. *mf* minimal vibrato, throughout



Sop. *mf*

vil - lage, e - ven my ears. Ap - parent - ly Mis - ter Fuks cat - ches his u - ni - corns here

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.



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October in Galicia

16

Sop. — in our re - gion. senza vib.

Fl. He

Ob.

B♭ Cl. *mf*

Bsn.

Tamb. stroke edge *mp*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. minimal vibrato, throughout

DB. *mf*

October in Galicia

21 **A** *poco vib.* *normal vib.*

Sop. cuts off their horns and sells them as tal - is - mans. The horn ___ of a

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn. *mf*

Hn.

21 **A**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

October in Galicia

28

Sop. u-ni-corn — brings good luck. good luck.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Hn. *f*

Tamb. *f* *a normale* *mf*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

October in Galicia

34 *mf* senza vib.

B Misterioso

Sop. (as does the u - ni - corn) — It is al - so me - di - ci - nal,

Fl. * *pp*

Ob. *p*

B♭ Cl. *mf*

Tamb.

Glk. *pp*

B Misterioso

Vln. I pizz. *mf* *pp* arco sul tasto

Vln. II pizz. *mf* *pp* arco sul tasto

Vla. pizz. *mf* *pp* arco sul tasto

Vc. pizz. *mf* *pp* arco sul tasto

D.B. pizz. *mf* *pp*

* alternate between pitches at an indeterminate rhythm, avoiding metrical alignment

October in Galicia

Musical score for "October in Galicia" featuring seven staves of music. The instruments are:

- Sop. (Soprano) in treble clef, key signature of four sharps.
- Fl. (Flute) in treble clef, key signature of four sharps.
- Glk. (Glockenspiel) in treble clef, key signature of four sharps.
- Vln. I (Violin I) in treble clef, key signature of four sharps.
- Vln. II (Violin II) in treble clef, key signature of four sharps.
- Vla. (Viola) in bass clef, key signature of four sharps.
- Vc. (Cello) in bass clef, key signature of four sharps.
- D.B. (Double Bass) in bass clef, key signature of four sharps.

The score includes lyrics in parentheses under the Soprano staff:

it cures e - vil spells, jin - xes, thin blood, aches of the head as well as

Measure numbers 39 are indicated above each staff.

October in Galicia

C Rustic

Sop. those of the soul.

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Tamb. stroke edge

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *a normale*

Vc. *mp*
a normale

D.B. *mf*

October in Galicia

mf warm, normal vibrato

Sop. 50 The na - ture of a u - ni - corn is to act as a sen - try. The u - ni - corn is the

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Tamb. 50

Vln. I 50

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Sop. 56 si - lent pro - tec - tor of se - cret know - ledge. A ta - ci - turn scho - lar. A wise

Vln. I 56

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

October in Galicia

61

Sop. *vi - sion-a - ry.* D
senza vib.

B♭ Cl. *mf*

Tamb.

Vln. I *mp* D

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

66

Sop. *poco vib.* *normal vib.* *mp*
horn he — has cut off as — an un — us - ual breed — of horse — These hor — ses

Ob. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Tamb.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

October in Galicia

71

Sop. — do not re-main with their buy-ers long, how - ev-er, for they bolt _____ they bolt _____ at the senza vib.

Fl. — *p* *mf* *f*

Ob. — *p* *f*

B♭ Cl. — *p* *f*

Bsn. — *p* *f*

Hn. — *p* *f*

Tamb. — *f* *a normale*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

October in Galicia

76

Sop.

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl.

Hn.

Tamb.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

first chance

76

76

76

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

October in Galicia

E **Misterioso**

Sop. *mp limited vib., slightly breathy*

Fl. *pp*

Glk. *pp*

Vln. I *sul tasto*

Vln. II *pp*

Vla. *sul tasto*

Vc. *sul tasto*

D.B. *pp*

* alternate between pitches at an indeterminate rhythm, avoiding metrical alignment

October in Galicia

norm. —————— *senza vib.*

84
Sop. *vir - gin.*
Fl. Mis-ter Fuks has a daugh-ter;
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Glk.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

October in Galicia

October 4th

Sop. 89 **p** folk-like, limited vibrato

The voi - ces of _ dogs be - yond the moun - tains

Mrb. 90 $\text{♩} = 84$ Surreal

p

Vln. I 90 *a normale*

Vln. II *a normale* **p**

Sop. 97 **p** limited vib, slightly breathy

Early mor - ning, a dream chased me from bed. A dif - fi - cult dream.

Mrb. >**p** >**p**

Vln. I 97

Vln. II *a normale*

Vla. **p**

October in Galicia

103 *mp*

Sop. The white bo - dy of a u - ni - com fly - - - ing a - bove, me

Mrb. > *p*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

108

Sop. I could not breathe, I was sweat-ing.

Mrb. > *p*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

F

October in Galicia

114

The u-ni-corn's horn pierced the sky. Stars

f senza vib. ——————> normal vib.

Sop. Mrb. Vln. I Vln. II Vla.

120

poured swift - ly to the ground like fruit blos - soms.

mp

Sop. Mrb. Vln. I Vln. II Vla.

October in Galicia

Mrb.

125

Vln. I

Vln. II

126

p

>*p*

Sop. *mp* senza vib.

The Fuks' a-woke a-round five in the mor-ning. I do not ex-act-ly know ___ the time, there is no clock in the house.

Mrb.

131

mp senza vib.

The Fuks' a-woke a-round five in the mor-ning. I do not ex-act-ly know ___ the time, there is no clock in the house.

>*p*

>*p*

132

Vln. I

Vln. II

October in Galicia

137

Sop. **G**

Fl.

Mrb.

Vln. I

DB.

We rode don - keys in _____ the cool

144 *p* limited vib, slightly breathy

Sop. — dew. We came to a stop in mys - ter - i - ous, fra - grant mar - shes.

Fl.

Mrb. (8va) -

Vln. I pp

Vln. II ppp

Vla. ppp

D.B. (8va) -

October in Galicia

150

Sop. Fuks slouched with his finger at his lips. A - bi - gail whis - pered some - thing in - to her

Fl. *ppp*

Ob. *ppp*

B♭ Cl. *p*

Bsn.

Hn. *ppp*

Mrb. *p*

(8va)

Vln. I

Vln. II *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

October in Galicia

156

H

limited vib., slightly breathy

p

Sop. — hands. In those pla - ces, it was as if there were no sun - rise.

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

DB.

con sord.

ppp

sul tasto

a normale

mp

pp

October in Galicia

162

Sop.

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl.

Hn.

Mrb.

Vln. I

DB.

Quite the op - po-site, the dark-ness thick-en'd. Si - lent - ly we wait - ed.

norm. senza vib.

162

162

162

162

162

162

162

162

162

162

162

162

162

pp

October in Galicia

168 **p** senza vib. —————— norm. **mf**

Sop. And fi - nally, from the dis - tance, a u - ni - corn was ap - proach-ing ——————

B♭ Cl.

Hn. 168 senza sord. **pp**

Mrb. 168 **pp**

Vln. I *a normale* **pp** **mf** **pp**

Vln. II **pp** **mf**

Vla. **pp** **mf**

Vc. **pp** **mf**

D.B. **pp** **mf**

October in Galicia

174

Sop.

B♭ Cl.

Hn.

Mrb.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p norm.
A - bi - gail closed her eyes

174

174

(8^{va})

174

pp

pp

pp

pp

October in Galicia

Sop. 180 and, for some time, did not o - pen them. *senza vib.* Fuks tin-kered with some-thing by the

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. 180 (8va)

Mrb. 180 (8va)

Vln. I 180

Vln. II pp

Vla.

Vc.

October in Galicia

186

Sop. *senza vib.* *norm.* *mf*
don-key. I stared mute - ly at the mag - ni - fi-cent an - i - mal, that

Fl. *mp*

B♭ Cl.

Bsn. *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Mrb. *p* *> pp* *mp*
p *> pp*

Vln. I *pp*

Vln. II *pp* *mp*

Vla.

Vc.

D.B. *mp*

October in Galicia

192

Sop. *dream come to life.*

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mp* *mf*

B♭ Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Mrb. *mf*

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

DB. *mf*

I

5 5 5 5

October in Galicia

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Mrb.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vc.

197

mf

mf

mf

mp

mp

mp

October in Galicia

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Mrb.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vc.

D.B.

(8va)

(8va)

201

mp

October in Galicia

Fl. 205

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Mrb. 205

Vln. I 205

Vc.

D.B.

October in Galicia

J

Sop. 210 **p** senza vib. Then it hap - pened. A - bi - gail cried out. My u - ni - com ran off.

Fl. 210

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn. 210 **pp** **f**

Hn. 210 **pp** **f**

Mrb. 210

Vln. I 210 **pp** **f**

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. >

D.B. >**pp** **f**

October in Galicia

218 Sop. We re-turned emp - ty han - ded. *poco vib.* Sur - rep - ti - tious ly, they looked at me. *senza vib.*

218 Vln. I *pp*

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

224

Sop. I was the cause of the fail - ure. Then si - lent-ly, it driz - zled. The land-scape went damp.

Mrb. *breathy*

224

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

October in Galicia

October 23rd

233 *mf* folk-like, limited vibrato

Sop. Are you not the moon, you have such a white face. I saw you be-hind the hill and you fled.

This musical score excerpt shows the soprano part and parts for oboe, bassoon, and horn. The soprano part consists of eighth-note patterns with a 'folk-like, limited vibrato' instruction. The orchestra parts feature sustained notes and eighth-note patterns with dynamic markings like *mp*, *pp*, and *p*. The lyrics are integrated into the vocal line.

234 $\text{♩.} = 60$

Ob. B♭ Cl. Bsn. Hn.

con sord.

This section continues with the same instrumentation. The tempo is marked $\text{♩.} = 60$. The oboe, bassoon, and horn play eighth-note patterns, while the bassoon provides harmonic support with sustained notes. The dynamic levels fluctuate between *mp*, *pp*, and *p*.

240

Ob. B♭ Cl. Bsn.

Hn.

Vln. I Vla. Vc.

The instrumentation changes to include violin I, viola, and cello. The violin and viola play eighth-note patterns, while the cello provides harmonic support with sustained notes. The dynamics are marked *p* and *pp*.

October in Galicia

K head/chest mix, limited vib.
 246 *poco accel.* = 66 **f**

I _____ read through bul - ky old books with the rab - bi. The

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

DB.

October in Galicia

251

Sop. rab - bi blew the dust off their spines. I ____ read through bul - ky old books with the rab - bi. The rab - bi blew the dust off their

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

p

f

p

pizz.

mf

October in Galicia

256

Sop. spines. I read through bul - ky old books with the rab - bi. The rab - bi blew the dust off their spines.

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn. *p*

Hn. *senza sord.* *f*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

DB.

October in Galicia

261

Sop. I read through bul-ky old—books with the rab-bi. The rab-bi blew the dust off their spines. —

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

261

Org. (p-r)

October in Galicia

266

B♭ Cl. lunga (c. 5 sec.)

Bsn. lunga (c. 5 sec.)

Hn. lunga (c. 5 sec.)

Vln. II

Vla. lunga (c. 5 sec.)

Vc.

D.B.

266

Org. (p-r) lunga (c. 5 sec.)

mf

271

Org. (p-r) lunga (c. 8 sec.)

October in Galicia

L ♩. = 52
warm, normal vibrato

Sop. 280 *mf*
 U - ni - corns re - veal them - selves in dreams.

Fl. 280 *mp*

Ob. *mp*

B♭ Cl. *mp*

Org. (p-r) 280

287

Sop. In the rab-bi's books, — we dis-co-vered the an - cient home-land —

287

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

B♭ Cl. *mp*

Bsn.

Hn. *mp*

October in Galicia

292

Sop. *of these a - ni - mals.*

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

B♭ Cl. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

D.B. *p*

292

Org. (p-r) *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

October in Galicia

298

Sop.

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

298

Or - gan mu - sic —

298

(8^{ma})

Org. (P-r)

October in Galicia

305

Sop.

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Or. (p-r)

305

Or - gan mu - sic.

(8^{va})

October in Galicia

3II

Sop. from the hea - vens from the hea - vens.

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

3II

(8^{ma})

Org. (p-r)

October in Galicia

norm. ——————> senza vib.

Look up to the sky,
for remainder of recorded music.

318

Sop.

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Org. (p-r)

October in Galicia

continue previous, add this layer:
8^{va}-

Org. (p-r)

continue previous, add this layer:

March 2009, Astoria, NY
Duration: ca. 13 min.