

From the "Vorspiel" and "Isolde's Liebestod."

("Tristan und Isolde")

"Tristan and Isolde" was commenced by Wagner in 1857, and finished two years later. The orchestral prelude to this work is a wonderful setting of a series of the principal motives occurring in the course of the opera, while "Isolde's Liebestod" (Isolde's Love-death) occurs in the last scene of the third act. In it Isolde delivers her dying speech over her lover's dead body. The music to this scene is incomparable as regards grandeur, passion and fire, and marks the zenith of Wagner's powers as a composer of impassioned descriptive music.

Vorspiel.

Langsam und schmachtend. (*Slowly and languishingly.*)

Vcl.

1st Violin.

2nd Violin.

poco rall.

Sul G V

p cresc.

poco rall.

f

riten.

a tempo

dim.

a tempo

p

dim.

cresc.

p

cresc.

f

dim.

p

dim.

p

f

cresc.

p

f

p

più p

pp

Belebend. (*with more animation.*)

1st Violin.

2nd Violin.

Sul G

rall.

a tempo

1

2

3

a tempo zart (delicately)

dim.

p

dim.

più p

molto cresc.

ff

1st Violin.
2nd Violin.

p cresc. *f*

p cresc. *f*

più f *meno f*

più f *ff* *dim.*

meno f *sempre più f* *sempre più f*

p *f*

p *f*

p *f* *più f*

ff *Sul G*

ff

Second Violins 8va lower from here.

sempref *piuf*

allmählich im Zeitmaass etwas zurückhaltend.
(slight ritard. from here.)

dim. *p* *p*

Isolde's Liebestod.

Sehr mässig beginnend. (Commencing in very moderate Tempo.)

mit Dämpfer. (con Sordino) getheilt (divisi)

1st Violins. *cresc.* *molto cresc.* *f* *dim.*

2nd Violins. *cresc.* *p* *molto cresc.* *f* *dim.*

Etwas bewegter. (more animated.)

ohne Dämpfer. (senza Sordino)

p *p dolce*

immer sehr ruhig. (continuing very quietly.)
ohne Dämpfer. (senza Sordino)

zusammen (unisono)

immer sehr weich. (continuing very softly.)

p dolce *p*

First system of a musical score. It consists of two staves. The top staff begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic, followed by a *dim.* (diminuendo) section, then a *pp* (pianissimo) section, and finally a *dolce* section. The bottom staff features a triplet of eighth notes and a *p* dynamic marking.

Second system of the musical score. The top staff includes a *dolce* marking and a *p* dynamic. The bottom staff features a *pp* dynamic, a *trem.* (trémolo) marking, and a *cresc.* (crescendo) marking.

Third system of the musical score, featuring vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are marked *pp* and *getheilt (divisi)*. The piano accompaniment includes markings for *poco cresc.*, *dim.*, *più p*, and *pp*. The lyrics "getheilt (div.)" are written below the vocal staves.

Fourth system of the musical score. The top staff includes a *dolce* marking and a *più p* dynamic. The bottom staff features a *sempre pp* (sempre pianissimo) marking and a *dolce* marking.

ZUS.
(unisono)

pp *cresc.*

pp

ZUS.
(unisono)

più p *cresc.*

pp

4 *tr*

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

V *cresc.*

cresc.

V

pp

pp

This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff features a melodic line with triplets and slurs, marked with a *pp* dynamic. The lower staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with triplets. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

cresc.

cresc.

This system continues the piece with two staves. Both staves are marked with a *cresc.* dynamic. The upper staff has triplets and slurs, while the lower staff has a more rhythmic accompaniment. The time signature changes to 2/4.

f

f

This system features two staves. The upper staff has triplets and slurs, marked with a *f* dynamic. The lower staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with triplets. The time signature changes to 4/4.

This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff has triplets and slurs. The lower staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with triplets. The time signature remains 4/4.

dim.

dim.

dim.

dim.

trem.

piu p trem.

piu p trem.

piu p trem.

piu p

This system is divided into two parts. The first part has four staves, each marked with a *dim.* dynamic. The second part has two staves, each marked with *piu p trem.* and *trem.* dynamics. The music features tremolos and slurs.

pp dolce

pp dolce

rall. morendo

rall. morendo

This system concludes the piece with two staves. The first part is marked with *pp dolce* and features slurs and triplets. The second part is marked with *rall. morendo* and features a final melodic phrase.