

MANUEL HIDALGO NAVAS

ir

2021

Based on the sonnet *ir y quedarse* by Lope de Vega
Vocal quintet [sop., mezzo., t., bar., b.] and tape — 24'

Commissioned by *La Biennale di Venezia*
Premiere: Neue Vocalsolisten. *Biennale di Venezia*, 26.09.2021

Work written within the framework of the *Biennale College Musica* 2021



LEFT: VENEZIA / RIGHT: NEUE VOCALSOLISTEN STUTTGAART



PROGRAMME NOTE

ir is based on the sonnet *ir y quedarse* by Lope de Vega. The text verbalizes and describes feelings of loneliness, absence, unease and frustration. The use of repetition and infinitive verbs — which accentuate the effects of immobility, intransitivity, in contrast to the active nature of the verb—, as well as the permanent presence of antagonisms, oxymorons and chiasmus converge on the feeling of loneliness and the suffering of the lover in the absence of the beloved. Lope creates a paradox which stirs a constant confusion in the reader's mind: when the conflict seems to find its resolution —with the appearance of the verb "ser" ("to be") conjugated in the 13th verse— it suddenly turns towards itself in a kind of dramatic mirror, emphasizing ideas of change and immutability.

The vocal quintet articulates two main ideas: the arising of a complex soliloquy by five voices, and the game of opposites. The voices emerge from a cloud of noises, giving the space a theatrical quasi-mystical dimension, and they confront the text, being both an obstacle and a vehicle for its communication. The voices alone will only work with their own materiality in order to provide the text with a definite shape; in other words, at the same time giving life to the poet's word, and embodying it by giving it a new meaning through music.

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