

*Division of Heaven and Earth* is a work for solo piano roughly 15 minutes in duration, conceived as a 'battle' with the *Transcendental Etudes* of Liszt. The Liszt works, present in the guise of quotations which are never direct, but always subtly modified with the addition of chromatic tones and 'bending' of their rhythms and figurations, represent the idealized music of the past ('heaven'), The piece begins as an 'empty shell', slowly filled by fragmentary echoes of the Liszt. In the 'battle' of the piece, the non-quoted music (*my* music) prevails, as a rhapsodic chordal melody enters in the mid range and slowly blossoms, finally descending to 'earth' in the work's final measures. *Division of Heaven and Earth* was written for the Swedish pianist (and neuroscientist) Fredrik Ullén, who premiered it in Stockholm in 2006.

- Kati Agócs