

IMPOSSIBLE GRACE

Music set to a poem by Indian poet, scholar and writer Meena Alexander (1951 – 2018)

Impossible grace (Meena Alexander, 2012)

- I. At Herod's gate
I heap flowers in a crate
Poppies, moist lilies --
It's dusk, I wait.

- II. Wild iris --
The color of your eyesbefore you were born
That hard winter
And your mother brought you to Damascus gate.

- III. My desire silent as a cloud,
It floats through New gate
Over the fists
Of the beardless boy-soldiers.

- IV. You stopped for me at Lion's gate,
Feet wet with dew
From the torn flagstones
Of Jerusalem.

- V. Love, I was forced to approach you
Through Dung Gate
My hands the color
Of the broken houses of Silwan.

- VI. At Zion's gate I knelt and wept.
An old man, half flame--
He kept house in Raimon 's cafe,
Led me to the fountain.

- VII. At Golden gate
Where rooftops ring with music
I glimpse your face.
You have a coat of many colors -- impossible grace.

link to youtube:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoHz_gynDoo

The performing ensemble consisted of German baritone Christian von Oldenburg, German accordionist Ina Hofmann, Palestinian oud player Waseem Odeh, Palestinian percussionist Raed Saed and American cellist Matthew Laughlin. The conductor was Karl Kronthaler from Germany. The composition won the 1st price at the Al Quds Composition Award 2012.

More information:

http://blog.kundkwien.com/2012/10/al-quds-university-college-of-music_19.html