

Louis XVI Goes to the Guillotine

BENJAMIN PERET *trans. Charles Simic*

♩ = 72c.

f *mp*

Stink stink stink, what's that stink, — it's

f *ff* *mf* *mp*

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the piece. The vocal line starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a 3-measure rest. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. Dynamics range from *f* to *mp*.

f *mf*

Lou - is the six - teenth, that bad egg, and his

f *sf* *f* *mp*

Red. *

Detailed description: This system contains measures 3-5. The vocal line has a 3-measure rest followed by a half note. The piano accompaniment includes a 5-measure arpeggiated figure in the right hand and a 6-measure arpeggiated figure in the left hand. Dynamics include *f*, *sf*, and *mp*. Performance markings include *Red.* and an asterisk.

mp

head drops in - to the bas - ket, his rot - ten head.

mf *ff* *mp*

Sub -

Detailed description: This system contains measures 6-8. The vocal line features a 3:2 ratio marking and a 3-measure rest. The piano accompaniment includes a 3-measure arpeggiated figure in the right hand and a 3-measure arpeggiated figure in the left hand. Dynamics range from *mf* to *ff*. A *Sub -* marking is present at the bottom.

Since the cold is ter - rif-ic, this twen-ty-first of Jan - ua-ry,

it rains blood, it rains snow, and all sorts of oth - er

filth— that flou - rish - es out of his an - cient corpse like a

dog croaked on the bot-tom of a pail, in the

p *poco*

f *mp*

p *3:2* *3:2* *3:2* *3:2*

pp *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

f *mp* *p*

f *pp* *p*

mf *p*

midst of dir— ty laun— dry, who has had plen— ty of

ff *pp*

Sub—

cresc. *f* *molto* *mp*

time to start de-com - po - sing like the fleur - de - lys on the gar - bage can, which the

cresc. *f* *p*

Sub—

p

cows re-fuse to nib - ble, for they give off an o - dor of

p

mf *mp* *mf*

true div - in - it - y, god the fa - ther of all

mp *mf*

mud, who gave Lou - is the six - teenth the di - vine right to

mf p sub. *mf* *mf*

Ped. *

f *mp* *sfz*

croak, like a dog in a laun - dry pail.

mp *pp* *sfz*

Lenox MA., July 15, 1987