

Morton Feldman: Programme Note for *The Viola in My Life IV*

Feldman's The Viola in My Life IV (1971) for viola and orchestra, was first performed on 16 September 1971 at the 34th International Festival of Contemporary Music at the Venice Biennale (9/17 September 1971). The performers were: Karen Phillips, viola, and the Concerto sinfonico dell'Orchestra Filarmonica dell'O.R.T.F. conducted by Marcello Panni. Feldman contributed the mixed, multilingual text below to the programme book for the Festival. This note is reproduced here by kind permission of the Estate of Morton Feldman. Special thanks to Lars Werdenberg.

a) Note as it appears in the programme book (p107):

Viola in my life IV

Il faut être discret. Non si può raccontare tutta la storia. Do you know Hawaii? Do you know the dunes in Provincetown – the air in Montauk – the cool Atlantic in late August? Haben Sie Freund[sic, Freud?] gelesen? Are you Jewish, been in analysis and have lived your adult life in Greenwich Village?

Siete celebre per una cosa a 45 anni e desiderate un'ultra[sic, un'altra?]? Wenn Sie al das erlebt haben – capirete *The viola in my life*.

Morton Feldman

b) English translation:

Viola in my life IV

You have to be discreet. You cannot tell the whole story. Do you know Hawaii? Do you know the dunes in Provincetown – the air in Montauk – the cool Atlantic in late August? Have you read Freud? Are you Jewish, been in analysis and have lived your adult life in Greenwich Village?

Are you famous for one thing at 45 years old and want another? If you have experienced all this – you will understand *The viola in my life*.

Morton Feldman