

Programme note:

This short piano piece was written in honour of the seventieth birthday of the composer Jane O'Leary, director of the Irish ensemble Concorde. It was first performed by Xenia Pestova on November 20th 2016, in the National Concert Hall, Dublin. It forms a companion piece to 'A Postcard and A Letter.' (EP 71728).

Note for the performer:

Before studying the piece, the pianist might like to read the original dedication, which underlies the music's melodic and rhythmic contour.

Dear Jane,

Many Happy Returns! I salute you with such admiration.

Single-handedly you have transformed music-making in Ireland by your championship of the new. How many composers are grateful to you! How many audiences have known the delight of discovery, thanks to Jane's Concorde.

I recall our good times together: at the Hugh Lane, in Heidelberg, in London and at home in Galway.

I think with pleasure of the skill and beauty of your music.

I honour you, Jane, you who have joy and tragedy woven into your life. All power to you for the next decade, and thank you for your music and friendship.

Nicola