

THRENODY

Nicola LeFanu

This short orchestral piece was inspired by Brendan Kennelly's 'The Trojan Women' – his wonderful version of Euripides' tragedy. My threnody, my lament, is for the small boy Astynax, murdered lest he grow up to be as brave as his father Hector. He is buried by his grandmother Hecuba, whose words move through grief and anger to a kind of transcendence.

The piece lasts about six minutes. It is composed for the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, who gave the premiere in Dublin on January 13th 2015, and is dedicated to Grainne Mulvey.

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