

Burning History

T.: Pascal LEFEVRE

M.: Alex CHRISTIAENS

LIBRETTO & SCRIPT

Opening credits

“Burning History.”

“17 May 1940.”

“The Germans are invading the Belgian city of Louvain. While the English army is retreating the newly rebuilt university library is burning down. Almost 900,000 volumes are being consumed by the fire, amongst them hundreds of precious manuscripts.”

Two swords cling together, two warriors (an English warrior and a German warrior) are facing each other.

Englishman: *“What ails you, you fiendish devil? For the second time you have destroyed this shining temple of culture. Look around and see all these scorched precious illuminated manuscripts. These unique artefacts have been cherished for centuries and now you have set fire to them.”*

German: *“So eine Unverschämtheit ! Die Widerlichkeit ihrer Worte ! Wo wir doch unschuldig sind! Sie selbst sind Ursache dieser Zerstörung, aber Sie schieben uns die Schuld zu!”*

Englishman: *“Are you out of your mind? You have invaded this peaceful country and have brought only death and destruction.”*

German: *“Sie haben uns herausgefordert! Sie glauben wohl, die ganze Welt gehöre Ihnen.”*

Englishman: *“Our Empire is the finest creation the world has ever witnessed. All four corners of the globe prosper under his Majesty’s reign.”*

German: *“Ihre Arroganz macht Sie blind! Ihr Reich wird künftig zerbröckeln. Dann wird es nur noch ein authentisches Reich geben: unser Sacrum Imperium! Wir Deutsche sind die Thronerben des Römischen Reiches!”*

Englishman: *“Don’t make me shiver with laughter. Your leader is a swindler. He burns not only books but also people.”*

German: *“Unsere Ehre heißt Treue! Nirgendwo sonst hat der Geist sich so gebildet wie in Deutschland! Denken Sie an Alexander von Humboldt...”*

Englishman: *“Isaac Newton.”*

German: *“Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.”*

Englishman: *“William Shakespeare.”*

German: *“Ludwig van Beethoven.”*

Englishman: *“Henry Purcell.”*

German: *“Albrecht Dürer.”*

Englishman pauses for a moment: *“...You may boast as much as you wish, but don’t forget that while it takes decades to make a gentleman, it takes only seconds to become a murderer.”*

Flames consume the two warriors.

End credits

Burning History

tekst : Pascal Lefèvre
muziek : Alex Christiaens

Andante ♩ = 80

Musical score for 'Burning History' featuring the following instruments and parts:

- Fluit
- Cello (Misterioso, *p*)
- Mezzo-Sopraan/Tenor
- Bariton
- Piano
- Milit. trom ad libitum
- Fl. (7, *mp*)
- Vcl. (7, *f*, *p*)
- Mez./T.
- Bar.
- Pno. (7, *p*, staccato)
- Trom (7)

Burning History

13

Fl.

pp

13

Vcl.

mp *mf*

13

Mez./
T.

Bar.

13

Pno.

mp

13

Trom

17

Fl.

17

Vcl.

mf

17

Mez./
T.

Bar.

17

Pno.

ff

17

Trom

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for the piece 'Burning History'. The score is arranged in a system with five staves. The top staff is for Flute (Fl.), the second for Violoncello (Vcl.), the third for Mezzo-soprano/Tenor (Mez./T.), the fourth for Piano (Pno.), and the fifth for Trombone (Trom). The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The first system (measures 13-16) features a complex flute melody with triplets and slurs, starting at a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. The cello part has a melodic line that grows in volume from mezzo-piano (*mp*) to mezzo-forte (*mf*). The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The second system (measures 17-20) continues the flute melody, which ends with a triplet flourish. The cello part features a series of triplets that reach a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment becomes more active, with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic indicated at the end of the system. The Mezzo-soprano/Tenor and Trombone parts are mostly silent, indicated by rests.

Fluit

Burning History

tekst : Pascal Lefèvre
muziek : Alex Christiaens

Andante ♩ = 80

8

mp

13

pp

16

mf

20

p

28

Più mosso ♩ = 90

p *pp*

38

p

56

p

61

p *f* *mf* poco a poco cresc. e accel.

68

mp poco rit. a tempo

Cello

Burning History

Andante ♩ = 80

tekst : Pascal Lefèvre
muziek : Alex Christiaens

Misterioso

6

11

16

21

27

33

39

45

p

f

mp

mf

f

p

p

mf

mf

mf

Burning History

tekst : Pascal Lefèvre
muziek : Alex Christiaens

Andante ♩ = 80

Piano

8 staccato

Pno.

p

12

Pno.

mp

16

Pno.

ff

20

Pno.

cello

mf

Burning History

Più mosso

Mez. *mp*

Bar. What

Pno. *p*

Mez.

Bar. ails you, you fiend - ish dev - il? For the sec - ond time

Pno.

Mez.

Bar. you have de - stroyed this tem - ple of cult - ure.

Pno. *mf* *f*

Milit. trom

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Andante ♩ = 80

44

f (snare on)

4

mf poco a poco cresc. e accel.

9 *mp*

10 *mp*

mf *mp*

14 *mp*

mf *mp*

8 *p*

poco a poco rallentando e diminuendo