

For WOLS (It`s all over) four pieces for piano (1991)

Duration: ca. 12'

WP: March 17, 1993, Düsseldorf, Michael Graubner

Comission of Düsseldorf Tonhalle

Publishers: Breitkopf & Härtel

For WOLS was composed in 1991 at the suggestion of the Cologne pianist Michael Graubner and was a commission from the Düsseldorfer Tonhalle. The Première took place in Düsseldorf in 1993 and in 1994 For WOLS was produced by Hessische Rundfunk.

The dedication and the subtitle of these four pieces for piano relate to the troubled and tragic life as well as to particular works of the famous German abstract painter WOLS. Born Wolfgang Schulze in Berlin in 1913, WOLS grew up in Dresden and died at the young age of 38 in poverty in Paris.

“For WOLS (It`s all over) is an endgame. But it does not come to a result like chess or football, rather it is to be understood in Beckett`s sense as an ‘old, previously lost endgame.’ Development takes place, if at all, only in the minutest, often stuttering dimensions, tending towards petrification in a developmentless point. At the end, the most expressive oppositions: two voices in far apart positions moving contrary to one another. In a contradiction of apparent stasis and violent eruptions, both voices find the inspirational way out of the title: the paintings of the artist Wolfgang Schulze whose abstract works Franke portrays partly as silent filigree, partly as violent expression brought about by his thoughts and feelings during the Gulf War.”

(Manfred H. Wenninger, excerpt from a portrait broadcast by Hessische Radio, 1996)

Leipzig, 22.06.1997