

**Gilead Mishory**

## **Fugitive Pieces**

**Anne Michaels' novel "Fugitive Pieces"** tells the story of Jacob Beer, a Jewish child from a Polish village, after his whole family was shot to death by the Nazis; the lonely escape through the woods and the marshes; the miraculous rescue through Athos, a Greek archaeologist; his surviving the war's years hiding on the island Zakynthos; his obsessive thoughts about his dead older sister, Bella, who was murdered, and "her" music, especially Brahms-Intermezzi and Beethoven's "Moonlight" Sonata.

The unusually rich, musically pulsing language of the author stimulated me to write a cycle for piano solo, which consists of eighteen short sound-images. Most of the pieces were composed between September 2004 and January 2005. The first performance of the cycle took place in a concert of the Südwestdeutscher Rundfunk on May 3rd.

The novel moves, often simultaneously, on different levels of consciousness and reality: "Every moment is two moments"; "The gradual Moment"; "All visible things will be born again invisible". The music reflects at some points this occupation with time. Although quite a few of the pieces are connected with dramatic situations or images, it is totally impossible to "transcribe" the whole novel into sound. These moments are shorter or longer, but always depict an inner, instantaneous event. The given quotations are points in the text, which associatively evoked the pieces. But music is a very fluid substance, and it often finds unexpected paths ...

Gilead Mishory, Freiburg, May 2005