

DAATH

First movement: *The Fall* (2023-24)

Audiovisual work for feminine voice, Disklavier and electroacoustics

Information about the video recording:

The electroacoustic piece, conceived for Ambisonics and infra-sounds, was recorded during a concert at the CCRMA Stage in February 2024.

YouTube link of the recording: https://youtu.be/npMr-0pDZ_0?t=197

Program notes

This composition is the first movement of an audiovisual monodrama for voice, Disklavier, and electronics I am currently composing. The main plot depicts the story of

A woman who wakes up on an ordinary day after having a nightmare she doesn't remember. During breakfast, a minor technical problem with her appliances causes her to recover the sensation of that strange dream, leading her to a cathartic experience through her reconnection with her past traumas.

To convey the feeling of this woman, who cannot remember her traumas due to the very tender age she lived them but who also brings these traumas carved within her body with her, I decided to use very low frequencies recreating the feeling of an earthquake: something you can feel but can't touch/hear. It took several months of research to understand and synthesize the sound of an earthquake. Still, nowadays, I can work with them compositionally, sculpt them at my will, and create a range of varied harmonies. Also, as I wanted her being and body memories to be scattered, I decided to work with the Ambisonix system, which allows me to split the spectra into several bandwidths and spatialize them separately into the room. I am working with the virtual acoustics system from CCRMA - CAVIAR -to invent different spaces that will lead the main character (and all the audience) inside herself to meet her traumatized younger self. This hour-long piece made me get out of my comfort zone and incorporate many elements as part of my compositional work that I had never experimented with before, such as video, stage sets (sculptures, props, etc.), invented acoustic spaces (through the Caviar system), infra-sonic waves, transducers, to name a few.

"I want to talk about my pain but the poem launched platform I wanted to talk but at the same time launch an act a movement to talk about my pain like a broken steel cable at the end of the launching platform a pain is also a platform a scaffolding steel cable propped against the wall iron bars a child's toy a cube stretch extend I wanted something as simple as four or five words forming a platform a scaffolding take higher withstand the fall in silence the platform the raging sea below a pool of fine sand falling can be like in a long jump the body marking the sand the reach of the body in the sand the sunken relief the weight of the body a pain can be more or less a mark like this the sunken relief marking the limit of a jump the limit of the fall how much the body can handle flying"

(Translated into English by Tatiana Catanzaro)