

# Lisa Bielawa

WWW.LISABIELAWA.NET

## Note

Premiere: February 22, 2022, Interchurch Center, NYC  
Duration: 8'  
Instrumentation: Soprano, Alto Flute, Horn

*Genesis Again* was originally written in collaboration with violinist Carla Kihlstedt and was premiered at the Bang On A Can Festival in New York in 1999. Scored sections trade off with improvised sections, sometimes together, sometimes with violin alone. This project was a study for the last scene of a chamber opera entitled *Spooky Action at a Distance*, written in free response to Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience*. The opera centers on the shape and limits of compassion. In our story, a doctor loses three patients by various means beyond her control in rapid succession. How does she bear what she must? How does she begin again, after so many endings and so many beginnings? The landscape of this last reflection is austere - a single voice and a single violin explore vulnerable textures and shared improvisations.

The title of the opera refers to a principle in physics. A particle may be split, and its fractions separated by miles... and nonetheless, under certain conditions, the two halves may respond as one. This is "action at a distance" - which Einstein refused to accept, calling it "spooky." Again, a principle in progressive physics bodies a long-held poetic notion: that we are bound, we are one, in ways past comprehending.

– Lisa Bielawa

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# Text

by Erik Ehn

O the ease of Apocalypse  
How we long for its release,  
In this age of generation  
God bends light to a shield against destruction  
No, our end, Genesis again  
This century. These many centuries  
O perfect generation. O Genesis, again.

For superior exegesis  
Read Bible backwards -

Our end in Genesis.

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