A COLLECTIVE CLEANSING

Lisa Bielawa WWW.LISABIFLAWA.OFT

Note

Premiere: September 2000, The Kitchen, NYC with the composer performing

Duration: 15

Instrumentation: Solo voice and digital audio

Selected choral excerpts from the Aeschylus tragedy *The Suppliant Maidens* are the setting for Ms. Bielawa's multitracked, vocal soundtrack electronically composed in both Greek and English. She explores the personalities of the 50 Danaids, the daughters of the Greek king Danaos, in their individual and collective roles, her voice both communally interacting while sometimes coexisting in separate expressive layers. A broad range of emotional textures emerges, all of them organic to the sound of her voice and the language of the play. The tension between the digital sound technology and the unique natural instrument of the human voice provides grounds for exploration of the key issues in *A Collective Cleansing*; the exponential, seductive expansion of industry and technology, and its continued effects upon our sustaining environment. – Cynthia Cox

Text

Excerpts from Janet Lembke's Translation of Reschylus' "The Supplicants"

but fugitives escaping self-built prisons for our own flesh	(lines 10-11)
Our father on earth heart's guide and guide for our footsteps gambling all for the best among sorrows	(lines 14-16)
to light on this earth cupped in the day's hand	(line 19)
Land? shall you welcome our coming?	(lines 26-27)
O Saviour Zeus guarding the flesh houses of men who honor You	
and breathe a soft air of mercy onshore	(lines 34-38)
These green shores nourished our earliest mother	(lines 60-61)
Mourning fingers rake smooth cheeks	(line 82)
Self-serving lust! Welcome it with hate	(line 93)
Let Him look down and behold brute self-seeking	(lines 115-116)
answering their untrainable hungers	(line 119)
answering their untrainable hungers Lighten me healing Hillpastures	(line 119) (line 130)
Lighten me healing Hillpastures Mother-earth you know my voice I try I try with mourner's hands to tear the fine-spun veil	
Lighten me healing Hillpastures Mother-earth you know my voice I try I try with mourner's hands to tear the fine-spun veil that shrouds my sight (lines 132-135)	(line 130)
Lighten me healing Hillpastures Mother-earth you know my voice I try I try with mourner's hands to tear the fine-spun veil that shrouds my sight (lines 132-135) Lighten me healing Hillpastures Bird that feeds on bird, how is it clean? that sick Earth, drenched, infected by the bloody stains of ancient murders, has spawned in agonybody politic, the people,contaminated;	(line 130) (line 142)
Lighten me healing Hillpastures Mother-earth you know my voice I try I try with mourner's hands to tear the fine-spun veil that shrouds my sight (lines 132-135) Lighten me healing Hillpastures Bird that feeds on bird, how is it clean? that sick Earth, drenched, infected by the bloody stains of ancient murders, has spawned in agonybody politic, the people,	(line 130) (line 142) (line 276)
Lighten me healing Hillpastures Mother-earth you know my voice I try I try with mourner's hands to tear the fine-spun veil that shrouds my sight (lines 132-135) Lighten me healing Hillpastures Bird that feeds on bird, how is it clean? that sick Earth, drenched, infected by the bloody stains of ancient murders, has spawned in agonybody politic, the people,contaminated;they who must then cure their houses	(line 130) (line 142) (line 276) (lines 337-339)
Lighten me healing Hillpastures Mother-earth you know my voice I try I try with mourner's hands to tear the fine-spun veil that shrouds my sight (lines 132-135) Lighten me healing Hillpastures Bird that feeds on bird, how is it clean? that sick Earth, drenched, infected by the bloody stains of ancient murders, has spawned in agonybody politic, the people,contaminated;they who must then cure their houses and their lives	(line 130) (line 142) (line 276) (lines 337-339) (lines 454-457)

in the earth, on the heights, in this air.	(lines 679-680)
On earth a godhost gives order to nature Which god shall I cry to?	(lines 790-792)
The Father Urge of my green life	(lines 794-795)
Never may they know the peace that scorched earth brings	(lines 865-866)
Flower of youth bud unstemmed	(line 894)
must not mow down the finest blooms	(line 897)
Truth stops my breathwhat was the earthly use?	(line 980)
born to treachery and crammed with unclean hungers	(lines 995-996)
io io ioioioioio O Earth O healing hills	(lines 1027-1029)
Must I be forced against heart's dream into a murderous bed?	(lines 1082-1063)
Dream! Black dream!	(line 1076)
I left my reverence beside the Nile.	(line 1220)
heart's guide.	(line 1281)
Be trustful, Father.	(line 1342)
Sing praise to rivers that rise	(line 1357)
sun-oiled streamspleasurous waters to sweeten the dust of the mother Earth and fulfill her with life upon life	(lines 1359-1362)
And in her motherlight soft daughters walk,	(line 1375)