

Paul Griffiths

invisible threads

(for Christian Mason to weave)

Libretto



Zu MM_2385428

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Notes

The text is written in “hyphae”: long lines that echo one another and are phonically related, in that consonantal sounds are restricted to those in the word “mycelium,” i.e. <m>, <s> and <l>. The letter “s” is not voiced (<z>, as in “rose”). Other consonantal sounds appear only in the “mushrooms” that occasionally erupt.

Commissioned by the City of Witten for the Wittener days for new music 2023,
financed by the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation

Der Text ist in „Hyphen“ geschrieben: lange Zeilen, die sich gegenseitig wiederholen und phonetisch verwandt sind, da die Konsonanten auf die im Wort „Myzel“ vorkommenden Laute beschränkt sind, d. h. „m“, „s“ und „l“. Der Buchstabe „s“ ist nicht stimmhaft („z“, wie in „rose“). Andere konsonantische Laute kommen nur in den „Pilzen“ vor, die gelegentlich ausbrechen.

Kompositionsauftrag der Stadt Witten für die Wittener Tage für neue Kammermusik 2023,
finanziert durch die Ernst von Siemens Musikstiftung

prologue [la vraie vie est ailleurs...]

I [somewhere else]

'erotic' mushroom (+vr) - - - - -

a lass lay low, slowly loom a male ally, **leave, evolve, oh live!, olive, svelte ever, reversely emulous,**

amass

a mess, messy essay, assay source, 'Esau, say yes!', sesame, same ass meme ||

amo

ammo

sis, some similar simile, ascesis asocial?, awe, awesome!, mallow, lo, molossus!

amiss

missile silo assail?, aim massy mace, mame, limb loss, lame, moil else lie low, allow asylum?, malice,

'devotional' mushroom (+nt) - - - - -

mimulous, mimosa, sallow, lily, lea, sea, asail into night's eternal sentinel, a lantern-lit lamasery, illuminates a

so uselessly I say "my soul", I say, "my soul", I assume, "my soul", soul I misassess, I say "my soul", I assume I

mellay, mace, maul a low ally, awesome!, a lull, more so cease ||

measureless solemnity all less Eleusis soar seer seal soil mossy, so mossy, soil

misassess, may I say |

interlude I [soft ground]

'erotic' mushroom - - - - - 'devotional' mushroom - - - - -

leave, evolve, oh live!, olive, svelte ever, reversely into night's eternal sentinel, a lantern-lit lamasery, illuminates a

- - - - - 'geographical' mushroom - - - - - 'historical' mushroom -

measureless solemnity Pampa Amapá Papua Papamoa Parma Apamea Apam time then time when **Sally, slay me,**
maim me, lay me

II [canon a 4]

'colour' mushroom' (+rdnt)

lower mole slowly so loose soil, mum, ace Mahler, seal soma, oo moo, I'm luce madder tan straw salmon

Moa soul lowly, slow moose moil – um – lace lala eel, MOMA, Sioux slew mime, seuce red cyan soot maroon steel Solly,

o'er ol' moly – oh! – use oil some mace à la Omah meal, sue Sue, lime mousse ultramarine

ower sole 'oly – o sluice! – mews soy'll sum slace, sala 'e'll, loo slue slime 'scuse

- - - - -

'physiological' mushroom (+htrb) - - - - -

emerald lolly meme, mail mailer, iller lassy, sow all ell illy ileum ilium ileum ilium ileum ilium me see me see me see

seem sail, sailor-miller sassy Lao small, smell lily **so the heart beats with the tree in the wind and the breath with the**

lemon Molly seam sale, alar Scylla massy ow, maul mel Milly ilium ileum ilium ileum ilium ileum me see me see me

cerulean Olly leam ale, Mailer scilla assy sough Saul, sell silly ileum ilium ileum ilium ileum ilium me see me see me

me see me see me see me

sea me see me see me see me

see me see me see me see

see me see me see me see

interlude II [glowing mushroom]

III [growing buds—in contrary emotion]

'appeal' mushroom - - - - -

infinitely involuted, the world is threading through

o my amour! my sea! my sail! say my name! call me! o my loose moss! my summer oil! o my solemn psalm! my missal!

I mourn so solar a loss, I miss you! I mourn, I lower my eye, I mourn, I mourn, a slow, slow sloom, I

I race a mile, see a

I miss my aim, alas, all loss, a loose moil, a slow slough, a useless loom, I

joy! a lease all summer! o allow me a say! all summer a lease, a murmurous sea! o oil my salsa! a scilla, a lily! o

the world, the world is threaded through with world, do not—!

o my early allure! my same oasis! say my name! call me! do not—!

mislaid my own soul, so sore a loss, a limb, I mourn, I moan, do not—!

mule, race a mile, see a mule, race a mile, see a mule, I do not—!

I murmur a memory: some asylum I left, save me someone! do not—!

slay me, I'll say "do not—!"

joy! a summer lease! o joy, o joy! all summer I say, o do not—!

IV [the lime wood]

flow my phloem

my phloem, flow, take me with you into the earth

my xylem

my xylem

my green blood touching into the earth

Milo amyl sycee isomer silo lisle Siam lisle Milo [etc.]

'source/dispersal' mushroom - - - - -

my ally, my miler ally,

lie, lie, lie my ice, lie my isle, lie my lye, lie my mile, lie my sice, lie my sile

my xylem, my green blood touching into the earth

I'm Milo, miler Milo, my Milo, Milo

'flow' mushroom - - - - -

'association'
mushroom - -

my ally, my smileless ally

lie my slice, lie my smile, lie, lie, lie, lie my isle, my ice, my sly smile

my phloem, flow, take me with you into the earth

gather — draw — yield

Milo amyl silo isomer Siam lisle [etc.], Milo miler, Milo smiler, Milo, my smileless icy ally, Milo sycee sea sigh sough so

my miler, my sly miler

