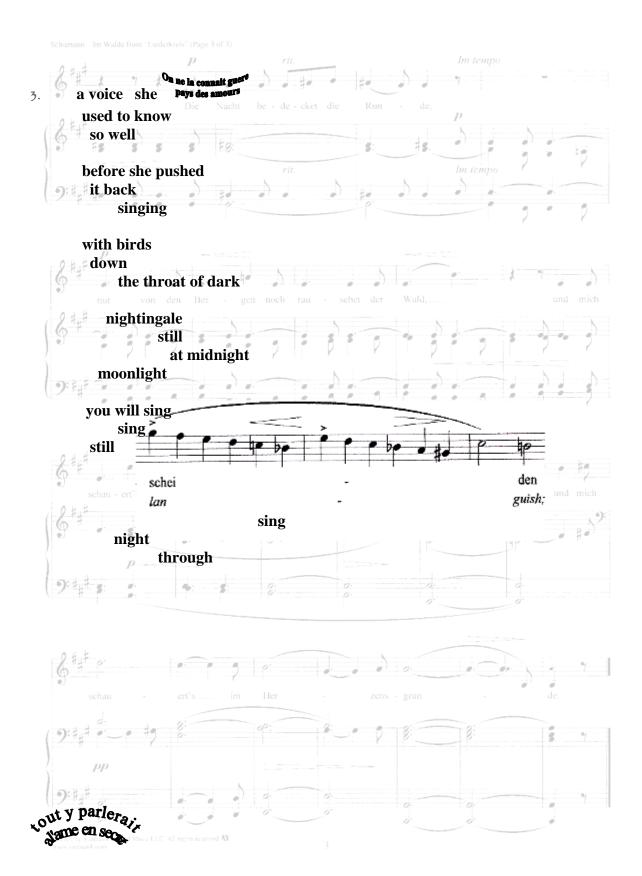
the soprano who loved silence a poet who longed for song

for Dame Felicity Lott 'est-ce, la poésie qui ément mon Coeur ou est-ce la musique





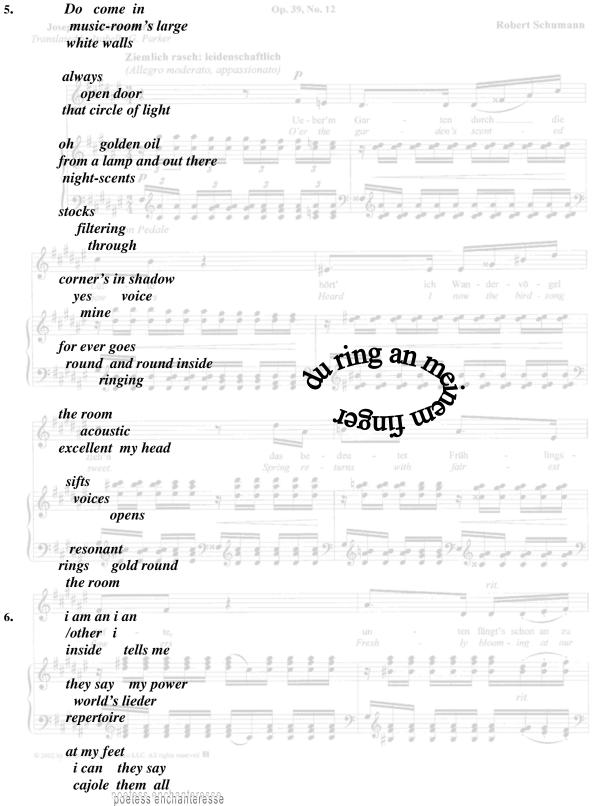
(refrain: 2voices/lines)

PPP 1. Here		ín	thís	ro	om	quíet	as	grass
2.	,		CVIUS		zêvons	Julioc	VI.3	c'est
1	the	Word		are	coming		ín	
2		L'N	Lmazza		ы			o bíen aím é e
1 take		over	the the		agen I	and		creep into
1	the	11	darkest [Soli,	Space In the		then	V
1	dust		the T		rners c	of	lígi	ht
1 2	SOMEO	ne	ís breat chaque b	t híng Tranche		the		glass une voíx
1 2				ís	cold o bien aim	ée		



Frühlingsnacht

(Spring Night)



Intermezzo

siren i

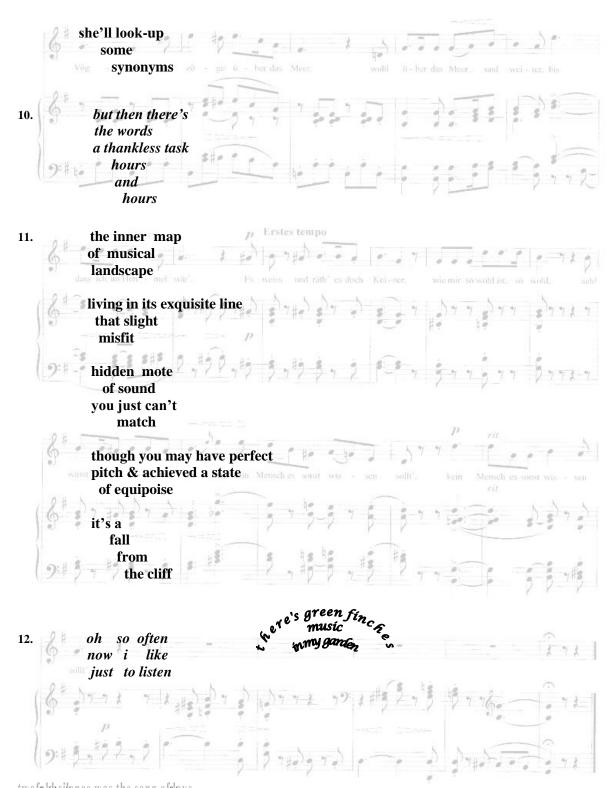
hearted

apparently dispel sweetest the power of song

from "Liederkreis" Op. 39, No. 2

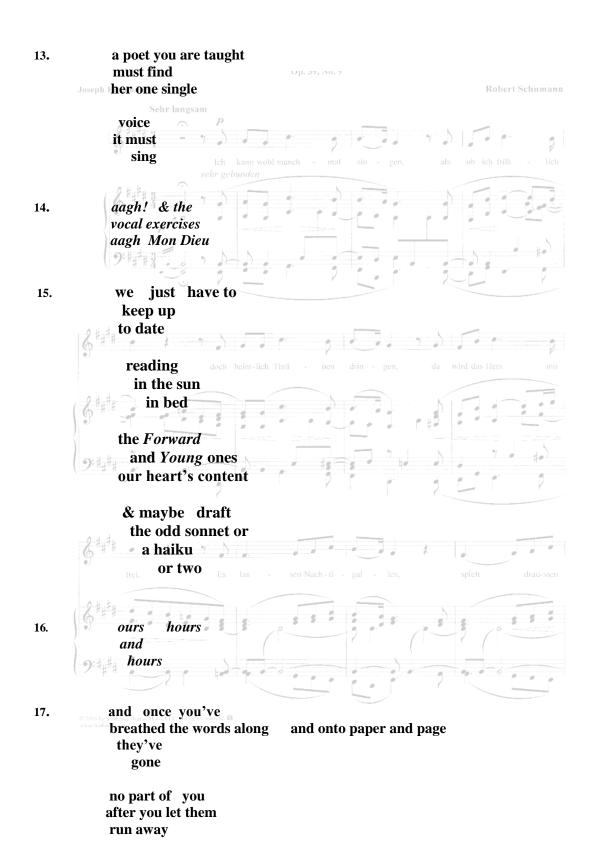
Robert Schumann

7.	but past is passed i'm here now watching this early sun	Bifd - niss	wim - der -	sar - file	* <u>*</u> * ·	hab' ic	th im Her-	- 203N
	its pool of light & sound a golden ring		· .	1 g.		-1:		
	will last I'll laze and listen away the day what	1.	\$ \$	3-5 -	\$ 5 5	1.5	3 3	- S
li hay	oh so much has happened Va the Volce billy Upon the 100 lives	hāds ha	sts alway	s shadow	ing :			
(6)	at least day sidn why think it's gone	so frisch	und früh	- lieh		aniela .	un zo je	der
9:=	too much to dwell upon & more	: 1						
8. Viken lister	poet hums her fix Schubert echoes	into the b	ecp valley an	ı sing distal	Alty From the	beep valley	the echoli	ises Up
(23	the further my voice ca	C	HING			wdmartt.	P	y nes
9	but words drown	: :		. 1 1	: :	\$ 15	: :	\$
(ラキ ₎	muted its	I NI ON ON ON	10, 00, on	ล์ไซนเหลง	9.		3 :	



twofidita silience was the song of love





to breathe & create a life of their own so much for your one true voice bees when they build their cells can we ever meet? do not let themselves be watched 19. still waters running deep school how they brood your voice/s project reflect/s the sound-scape here inside voices quiver let me out out out your curiosity ís a betrayal you wouldn't 20, always like my sound world if the rich honeycombes are brought out then you shall taste them someone hands her a sheet notated song sight reading fingers itch to play she wants so much to

sing hum mmm

22. there's another voice
whispering
a new

then stop and think untangle multilayered its meaning

& set it down

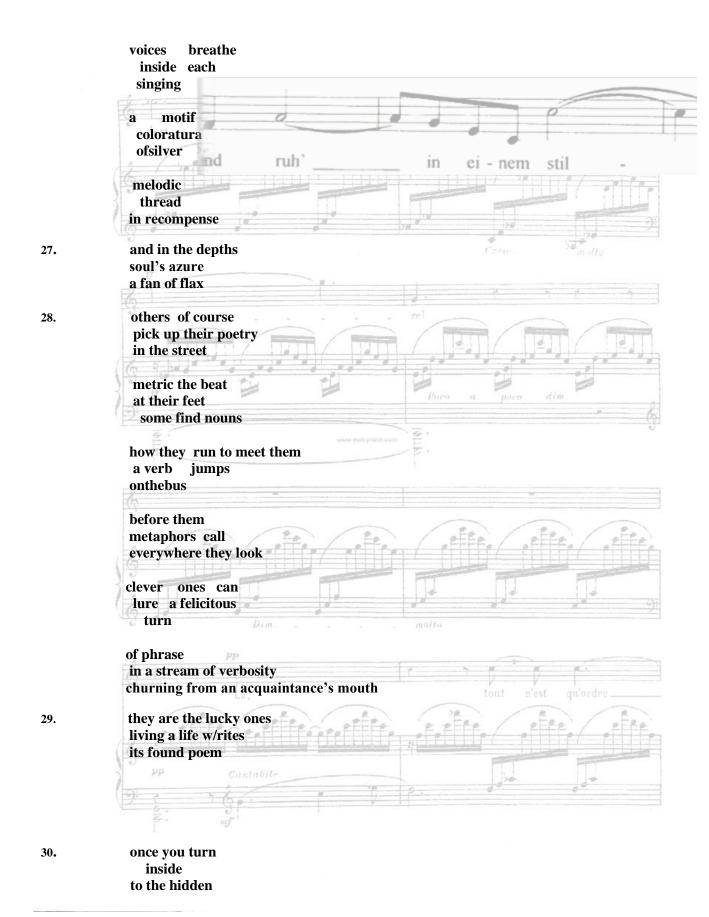
23. next recital's tomorrow
Interpretation time

24. yes i'm in
part now the relies on scale in Sci de peh'n und Ti
zone
i'm in my song

25. in the garden next morning quiet it's just

breathing and a caterpillar slithering along its home of grass

26. this poet's oneofus lives a quiet life



	silver mirror
	you have to look
	at what went on before win der schon der jung - ge Leite jetzt it's all in the pupa of your eyes
	2 and in the pupa of your cycs
	bluest hollow
	of dream
	where white the horses
	once free stampede
	Don't look away! things didn't always happen
	Cumgs didn't always nappen
	the way you wanted them to mit beit die bist die
	some left undone
	or abandoned
	for another day f
	that never
	ever came
	others took you over
	youlostyouinyourself
	"Du kennst mich wohl, du kennst mich
	an/other "Thou know'st me well, From tow" - ring
	who tookyouin
	where you had nomore to lose
31.	but i stayed
32.	i was always here
	to meet you
	when you arrived
	wohl von ho-hem Stein schaut still mein Schloss - tief in den
33.	all those years later And live the skip per and his
	(611) 7) 7) 7) 7) 7) 7)
34.	now & when all that
	matters is this eternal moment of now
35.	Q 2001 by YOU & I propose All rights received fift
33.	you & I

. f only | were a bird | should fly over the sea

there's a moment in the middle of the night threesecondspasttwentythreeminutespastthree you and me

you and me precisely in our singing sleep heart in poetry

reach for the silver thread in moon is gape indow the moonlight is

weave amongst the flax-azure over the field ong
your dress is the colour of Cornish seas
just before night your midnight blue

shawl edge-stitched grey its hieroglyph a sigil of flaxen love

we didn't know we could not know how we would meet like Nereids in a blue sea where the world is not the other's almost the virtual shadow where

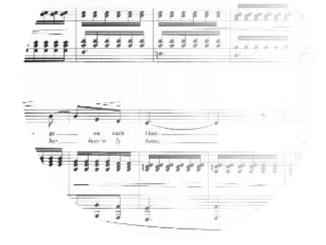
your blue is almost silhouetting black

36. who are you?

37. you know

O Thetis O Sea Mother Thetis
i prayed as he clutched my fibroat
she said

let me remember let me remember this star in the night



My soul is an enchanted boat, which, like a sleeping swan, doth float upon the silver waves of thy sweet singing; and thine doth like an angel sit beside a helm conducting it ...

revons c'est l'heure

yet
somehow
we

first the air is blue
and then it is bluer
then green

dive
below
and

under
the wreck
and have found

splintered
songs
in old

bones
and
amongst

On the paved parapet

You will step
carefully
from amber stones
to onyx

flotsam
once
earthen

jugs our mothers used once

threse witho wish to study women creators in the entrof music have held to search for 8 collect scatterel texts

upon a time peautiful, my delight 39 we beneath neural forests Why - do they shut me out of Heaves Did I sing - too loud? of seas heard again those dieninio woi mustesi breatines sweetly swaxywhere come back to me my swallow ting too loud scraps of **Songs** why do they shut me out of foremothers heaven sang in-lilting there flew across the waters cold waves only to glide along the tranquil sta Grandmother think not (forget ofsound because I sing too loud we'd forgotten lost in cranial folds the lake lay low below the him sea-horses 40 of memory cantering the whole waite world is ours and leave me not fortom frozen on waves 110t i forget of glass scrimp starfish light

Sea-foam and coral Oh, I'll nd dream the great pasture rocks which is the sun gold flood

through shoals of

as we pass descend

7

swallow-fish & dab & brill

reminisce for us *Only*

> the best will do

41 What of Clara?

green ear -shells crenalted

echo and call

150 years

ago you know you

know you know not

long ago She shared

Lieder with him Robert& what about Fanny

Where are
Her songs &
who is left

there's a long neglected lieder repertoire by women composers like Clara Schumann – either the compositions were ignored through all the women's life or soon forgotten after her death - but of course that can't happen now in the C21 – can it?

Schumann gave Clara the Frauenliebe und Leben cycle just before their marriage - in these songs the woman bends herself to her husband's will

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, composed over 200 lieder but only 2 collections were published in her lifetime – you may in the C21, be lucky enough to hear them once or twice in your lifetime & some are available on the www – her brother, the well-known composer, said "I cannot persuade her to publish anything because it is against my views and convictions. Fanny as I know her possesses neither the inclination nor calling for authorship. She is too much of a woman for that, as is proper & lower the supplies the same of th

the poet Marianne von Willemer wrote the words to Suleika 1&2; the lyrics were adapted from the oriental West-Ostlicher Divan; when Goethe's WOD was published her lyrics appeared under his name & it was many years before her authorship was acknowledged; even Schubert believed the words were by Goethe.

ıs news?

18

heart

can recollect What 9

Is the

The fi

& sing
them (What of
Alma? – Coronna?)
& recall
Marianne's
lyrical power?

42 & lyre fish tickle our toes

> with kisses wisps of words

they coax from far

on far under drowned pine-woods

- there Lorelei rehearse their fate -

beneath deeper far under waters

43 Sappho – what of Nossis Erinna Anyte and

Sulpicia?
After the
Fall
from the
Cliff what
then?
those

Singers

Schroder wrote "I have had to overcome much hesitation before I made the decision to publish a collection of short poems that I have provided with melodies. A feeling towards propriety & morality is stamped upon our sex."

> Gustav Mahler told Alma, his wife to be, that she must stop composing & look after their home – before he had even seen any of her pieces

In C18/19 Maria Paradis, Josephine Lang, Corona Schroder, Annetto Droste-Hulshoff, Luise Reichardt and Emilie Zumsteeg composed 100s of lieder many equal to the best written by the male composers of that era

Droste-Hulshoff was a famous C19 German poet but her many musical works are hardly known – none of her lieder were published

were poets & Poets had the Gift of Song remembering 44 & gathering together Nothing is sweeter than love and all delicious things are second to it yeh even honey seams of a Ispit out of my mouth Ispit past was out of my mouth it is said - part Hermes stand here by the windy orchard in the cross ways nigh the of Her grey Nightingale, herald of intrinsic sea-shore Spring art how with a voice of longing l spoketo you Aphrodi on the vase a dream tars, the loveliest wreaths of Now she stands out violets Neither among Lydian women nor th in hair as after sunset silvered glints the rose-fingered & plectrum moon exceeds all star light The Mo poised life with at the lyre I shall not be her mouth shaping phrases now scattered in 'And I say to you so meone. air will remember us in time to vocals fold a coral seafan that tessitura 45 no one will ever again hear her heart-

friends sit

inacircle - Cleis asleep the grove fresh with incense honey-clover the white rose intent Listen! you may thrill as they frisson thesilver-moon song of memory echo the farewell lullaby returned to her to entrust to their own loving future one day 46 she failing laid her lyre on chamomile no scribe bothered to write her words or transcribe a singletune few phrases 47 remained in synapsed minds not one in 50 years could recall a line of melody

& Erinna wrote

ther poem has no voice that will reach and be heard by others and the poet does not know who will read her written record epigrams

only to be read on the page Her/

story was to be forever

memorized chronological in recall

48 by now we have resurfaced are

> afloat again a coral raft our inimitable

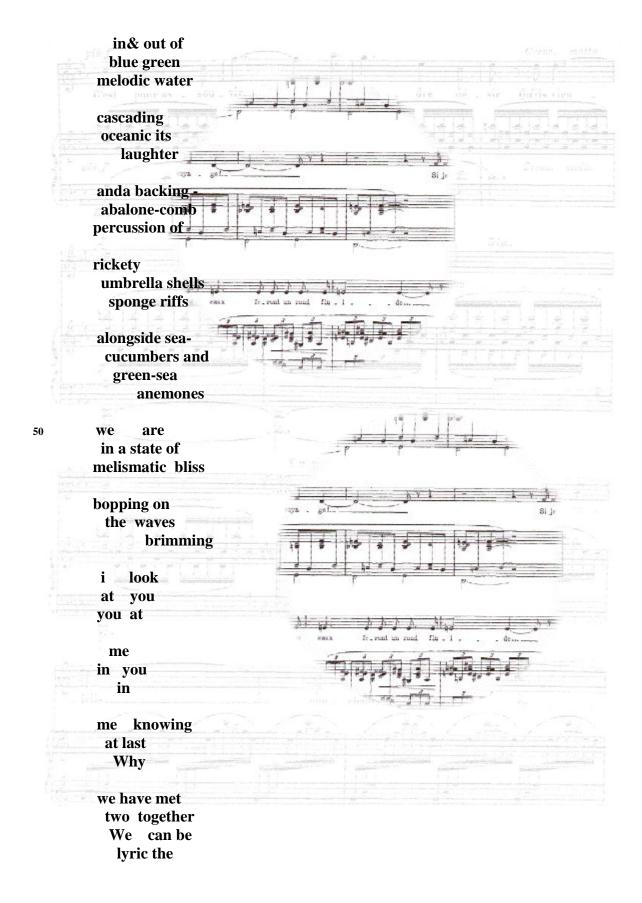
version of pea-green boat

deep-sea choruses lift and sustain us

> call & chortle up through layers of amber

parapet itself streaked with silver and

light seabutterflies wisp flit

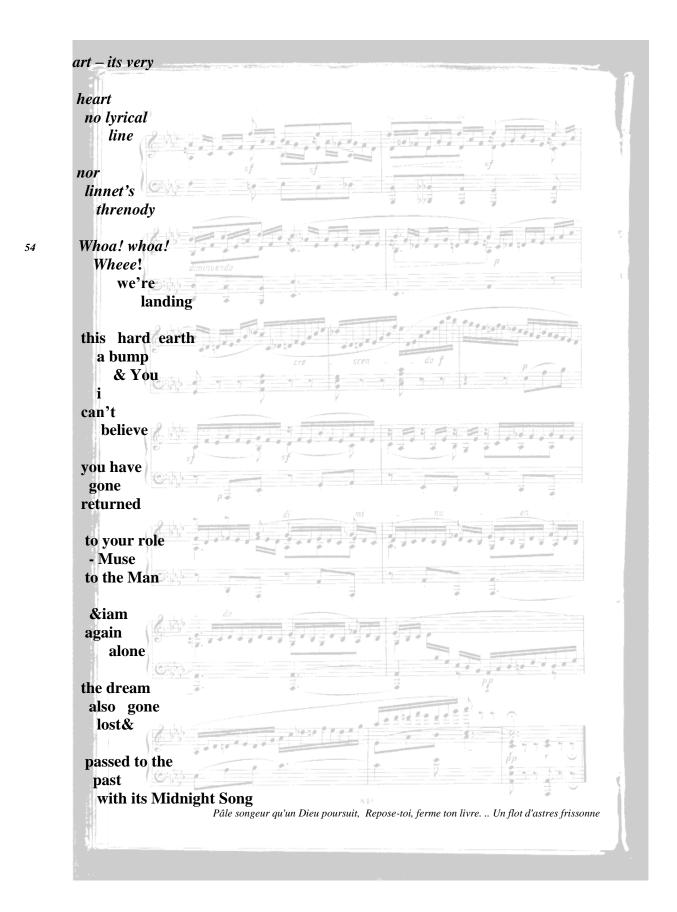


Song of poetry 51 a feast of sea-urchins scoffing pull alongside quip cut in Upon your circle of earth you have choice your own celebritysingingwanabees Didos Duffys Leonas could go till like the in slumber bound on borne to the ocean I float down, around adinfinitum – into a sea profound of everspreading sound oh how the Songs live on her time has come words music her own to Own a sea-horse 52 chips in two-part with that fenola snail you're wrong wrong there's no not not no not

a song

&trolley-dash no Poem nor Song not no not the Song it's retro-doo wop doo-wop soul and we sail on, away, afar without a course, without a star, by the instinct of sweet music dri till through Elysian garden islets by thee most beautiful of pilots bop-techno rap and popwop – What? these may-flies 53 dip & zip silver reflecting lakes short&sweet agreed the boat of my desire is guided that gift no thread of wisdom no journey to the inner

that Pizzazz



Afterword

Soprano is intended for page - possibly for performance. Traditionally the lied, as art form, balances in equal proportions, words and music. However, in its preferred presentation the lied prioritizes the sounded performance: the words implicitly come (a close) second to the music. Another of the conventional characteristics of the classical lied has been its typical and intrinsic bonding of male-derived words and music. Yes of course there are women poets represented in the repertoire, and there are female composers who have - and are still - writing classical song/s. Yet songs written and composed by women are (at least for the amateur) not easy to find (in recordings or as sheet music). Contemporary classical singers are performing some lied by women writers or composers – but these are apparently few and far between when compared to the songs of the classical and male canon. It seems that classical song has not yet caught up with the prevailing poetry culture, where women poets are being published more and more. How this contrasts with the world of pop-culture, where female song-writers are ubiquitous - indeed are given the privileged status of 'Princess/es of Pop'. Whilst I was doing bits of research for this project I found many poems by men (with music also by men); quite a lot of poems by – mostly, but not all famous women poets - (with, usually, music by men); a handful of poems by women (with music also by women); a couple of songs by one woman (words and music both by the same artist). Most interesting - found just as I was completing the piece - (because of the composer's links with Devon, my home county), Maud Valérie White, whose song 'My soul is an enchanted boat' according to several sources (including Grove's) was and is 'one of the best in our language'. Why then had I not heard of her before? Why can I not easily obtain a recording of the song - or even of the sheet music? How many other equally gifted female composers were (and still are) relegated to the musical margins?

One of the several threads of this poetry-project came from the female poet's point of view – to try an exploratory written lied, in which the words are supposed to take precedence; as 'poem on the page' the piece is displayed, whilst the 'music' is imagined or heard inwardly by the inner musico-poetic ear. After the piece was completed I came across the theories of Garrett Stewart re the phonotext – exploring the ways that the 'sounds' of the silent text are perceived by the body of the silent reader: he or she becomes a sounding board for the poem's language (see Reading Voices; Literature and the Phonotext). These ideas re reading and sound resonate with what I wanted to explore here. The project began with a snippet - a couple of lines spoken by Dame Felicity Lott during her Radio 4 Desert Island Discs session: 'I love silence ... more and more'. The main lines of the poem - (the vertical trail on the left) are mine – plus some of the fragments and also the English words of the 'refrain'; I have cited all quotes by others. Music is from various sources and the poetic/song lyrics are also adapted from a variety of song-like places (see below). There is a thread of narrative, but the piece is intended to present a multiplicity of allusive voices.

Notes

Page

- 1. soundtrack: Mendelssohn, Book 3, Op. 38, page 1, Song without Words, (Duetto); motif 1: Mahler, Um Mitternacht, No. 5, 5 Ruckert-Lieder.
- 2 *soundtrack*: Schumann/Eichendorff, Im Walde, Op. 39, No.11, *Liederkreis*; motif 1, 'on ne le connait', words from *Où vous voulez aller*?, words from Gautier, (song, Gounod); motif 2: from Mahler, Um Mitternacht No. 5, 5 *Rückert-Lieder*; motif: 'tout y parlerait', words from Baudelaire, L'Invitation au voyage.
- 3. italics for voice2, words adapted from Verlaine, La lune blanche, from *La bonne Chanson*: music-motif: from Massenet, Rêvons, C'est l'heure.
- 4 *soundtrack*: Schumann, Mondacht, Op. 39, No 5, *Liederkreis*; word-motif from Wolf, Quand tu chantez (song, Gounod).
- 5 voice2, words from Verlaine, La lune blanche; music-motifs: from Massenet, Rêvons.
- 6 *soundtrack*: Schumann, Fruhlingsnacht, Op. 39, No 12, *Liederkreis*; motif: words from Du Ring an meinem Finger, (Adelbert von Chamisso), in Schumann, *Frauenliebe und Leben* op. 42.
- 7 *soundtrack*: Schumann, Intermezzo, Op. 39, No. 2, *Liederkreis*; motif (*when I stand ...*): words taken from *Shepherd on the Rock* (words by Willhelm Muller and Helmina von Chezy), Schubert.

8 *soundtrack*: Schumann, Die Stille, Op. 39, No 4, *Liederkreis*; motif, 'when two-fold silence...', words from Rossetti, Silent Noon (song, Vaughan Williams).

9 music-motifs: from Massenet, Rêvons, C'est l'heure.

10 soundtrack: Schumann, Wehmut, Op. 39, No 9, Liederkreis (p1).

11 *soundtrack*: Schumann, Wehmut, Op. 39, No.9, *Liederkreis*; (p2); motifs: from Rückert, Blicke mir nicht in die Lieder (*Don't Look at my Songs*), in Mahler, *Rückert-Lieder*.

12 *soundtrack*: Duparc: L'Invitation au Voyage, (Baudelaire); motif: Mendelssohn,: Die Schwalbe Flieght, (Witches' Song).

13 *soundtrack*: Duparc: L'Invitation au Voyage; motif: Rückert: Ich bin der wel abhanden gekommen, (No. 4, Mahler, *5 Rückert Lieder*).

14 soundtrack: Schumann, Waldesgesprach, Op. 39, No. 3, Liederkreis.

15 musicmotifs: Schumann, Mondnacht, Op. 39, No. 5, *Liederkreis;* word-motifs: 'the night is romantic', from Lehar, Chanson de Vilya, in *The Merry Widow;* 'O Thetis' from H.D., (Hilda Doolittle) *Helen in Egypt;* 'if only I were a bird' from Schumann, Die Stille, Op.39, No. 4; 'My soul is an enchanted boat' from Shelley, (Asia from Act II scene V of Prometheus Unbound), in song by Maud Valérie White. 16 *soundtrack:* Fauré, Reflets dans l'eau, from *Mirages,* Op.113, poem by Baronne Renée de Brimont; word-motifs: 'crystal of purple rock' and 'on the paved parapet' from H.D., Thetis in *Collected Poems;* 'first the air is blue' from Adrienne Rich, *Diving into the Wreck.*

17 word-fragments: 'those who wish to study women creators ...' from Preface, Diane Jezic and Elizabeth Wood, Women Composers; the Lost Tradition Found; 'Beautiful my delight ... pass as the mottled night' from Louise Bogan, Collected Poems 1923-53 (song, To be Sung on the Water, Samuel Barber); 'Why-do they shut me out ... 'from Emily Dickinson, Poems of Emily Dickinson (song, Aaron Copland); 'the solemn hour of Midnight' from Emily Bronte, (song, Lothar Klein); 'the whole white world is ours', from H.D., 'White World' in Collected Poems (song, Libby Larsen); 'come back to me my swallow' from Mary Coleridge, Poems, 1907(part-song, Charles Stanford); 'Grandmother, think not I forget, from Willa Cather, April Twilights, 1903 (song, Garth Baxter); 'the lake lay low below the hill ... a bird whose wings ...' from Mary Coleridge, Poems (part-song Charles Stanford); 'Sea-foam and coral ...', from Adelaide Crapsey, 'Laurel and the Berkshires', in Verse, 1915 (song, in Four Songs for a Young Lady, Henry Clark); 'only to glide along the tranquil sea' from Amy Beach, words and music – (in Ecstasy, Three Songs, no.2, 1891).

18 soundtrack: Mendelssohn, Book 3 Op. 38, Song without Words, (Duetto); info. in text-boxes from various sources.

19 background poem: from Marianne Von Willemer, Suleika 1; info. in text-boxes form various sources. 20 *soundtrack*: Fauré, Reflets dans l'eau from *Mirages*, op.113, words, Renée de Brimont; text-fragments from poems by Sappho, Nossis and Anyte (various translations); poem in circle-box from Sappho, fragment 33 in *Poems and Fragments*.

21 music motifs: Fauré, Reflets dans l'eau from Mirages.

22 soundtrack: Duparc, L'Invitation au Voyage; music-motifs: Fauré Reflets dans l'eau; 'her poem has no voice', fragment adapted from Ellen Greene, Women Poets in Ancient Greece and Rome.

23 *soundtrack*: Duparc, L'Invitation au Voyage; words from Shelley 'my soul is an enchanted boat', in Prometheus Bound (song by Maud Valérie White).

24 soundtrack: Duparc L'Invitation au Voyage; words from Shelley 'my soul' (song by White).

26 *soundtrack*: Mendelssohn, Book 3, Op. 38, last page, (Duetto), *Song without Words*; end-fragment: from Théodore de Banville, La Nuit, (song, Chausson).

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