

INSTRUCTIONS AND TEXTS USED FOR PARADISE, PURGATORY AND PANDEMONIUM

Malcolm Atkins

The piece was written for eight members of The Sixteen, a choir and at least seven people reading texts (and making bestial noises).

The score is entirely based around the tune *l'homme arme*, an inspiration to the writers of beautiful Renaissance polyphony which in its lyric expresses the genocidal and hysterical shadow of the time.

Paradise is expressed through arrangements of texts from the mass, purgatory and pandemonium (devil's everywhere) by the use of texts describing Christian intolerance, bestial sounds, and the use of material which firmly accentuates the devil's interval – the tritone.

I hope, through this piece, to capture my ambivalence towards the religious music of the Renaissance, which I have always found deeply moving in its intensity and spirituality, but equally disturbing in its support of a religion which was so violent and intolerant.

The score will show sixteen members as I and choir as II when not labelled fully. Reading instructions are at the bottom of the score but full texts are below.

TEXTS (INSTRUCTIONS FOR THEIR USE ARE IN THE SCORE AS WELL)

TEXT 1 INQUISITION – ENSURE THAT YOU LEAVE PLENTY OF GAPS FOR THE MUSIC TO BREATHE – COUNT IN YOUR HEAD BETWEEN SENTENCES (4,5,7,9 IN TURN).

The punishments and tortures used to gain confessions are the most famous parts of the Inquisition. Because the trials were for spiritual matters, the Church handled them. However, the punishments were usually very much physical, so they were handled by the state. There were many means of this physical torture for confession. The two most famous or infamous were the *strappado* or pulley, and the *aselli* or water torment. (*pause*) The *strappado* was a device that used ropes to strap a person in by their arms and legs, and then weights were attached to the ends of these ropes. (*pause*) The person was raised to a certain level and then the ropes were released. (*pause*) This created a situation where the body would be stretched painfully, sometimes enough to produce death (see Figure 1). The *aselli* was accomplished as a person was brought to lay down on a trestle with sharp-edged rungs and secured with an iron band. Their feet would be elevated above their heads. The accused then had a small piece of linen forced into the gullet. Using a jar (*jarra*), water would be poured into the mouth and nose producing a state of semi-suffocation. The process would be done repeatedly. While doing that process, the cords binding the limbs would be tightened until it would seem the very veins would explode (Roth, 1964). The torture would not be stopped, but a break could be taken. The difference is that if the torture were stopped, it could not be started again according to church law. But, if the torture was only suspended, it could be resumed at a later time.

In summary, the Inquisition in Spain began in 1478 and officially ended in 1808. During that time, 323,362 people were burned and 17,659 were burned in effigy. It is one of the darkest periods in Spanish history. By far, the greatest number of cases tried were for Judaising (Roth, 1964). These were also the cases that were tried the most severely. There were other minorities,

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of course, that were persecuted, but the majority were Jews. The Inquisition definitely had racial overtones. Although, it can be said that Queen Isabella officially initiated the Spanish Inquisition for the purity of faith, nation, and people, this is probably not the case.

TEXT 2 CRUSADES

"In 1098, after the crusaders captured the city of Maaratan-Numan, reports confirm the first of many episodes of barbarism.

Anna Comnena reported that the crusaders massacred those they captured and lapsed into an orgy of cannibalism:

"In Maarat our troops boiled pagan adults in cooking pots. They impaled children on spits and devoured them grilled."

TEXT 3 HYMN

"Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus, going on before."

TEXT 4 COLUMBUS

Read this text quietly but make loud animal noises whenever you read an emboldened syllable, extend and repeat the noises and syllables before continuing. If you cannot think of an animal sound with the syllable be a loud shouty human repeating the syllable as you please.

When Christopher **C**olumbus reached the New **W**orld, he ignited a debate in Europe regarding whether the "*new*" land's inhabitants were **h**uman, and therefore fit for religious conversion. In the meantime, street-level dehumanization offered the "*Indios*" little except lives of cruelty under the whip:

*"The men were separated from the **w**omen....Women were routinely **r**aped and taken as concubines by the **S**panish. **I**ndians were punished with **i**mpromptu amputations of hands or feet at the slightest provocation. **D**ogs were used to tear **I**ndians apart, sometimes for amusement, and to hunt down the large numbers who **r**an away....The islands **d**ominated by the **S**panish became huge **d**eath camps..."*

As the indigenous inhabitants **d**ied, African slaves were imported to provide the basic human **l**abor for the **S**panish version of **m**anifest **d**estiny. The underside of the Spanish Conquista remained much the same: "*Raiding parties entered **a**gricultural villages early in the morning and **r**ounded up the **p**eople. **B**abies were typically heaped in a pile, men and **w**omen divided up, old people put to one side. Then the babies, small **c**hildren, and old people were **k**illed. The others were **m**arched to the coast, where they **w**ere held in stockades like **c**attle until the **s**lave ship arrived."*

As Indians did in **M**exico, the **C**aribbean (and later, in the California **m**issions), many

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African mothers **aborted** their **fetuses** and then committed **suicide** to **avoid** their **prescribed** role as raw material **for** the **Spanish conquest**. This **role** included transport, cramped into a space the size of a coffin, in a ship stinking of **urine** and feces, prey to **disease** and **whip-wielding** masters. **Roughly** a quarter to a third of the **average** slave ship's **human** cargo **died** and was **tossed** overboard en route. Those **who** made it to the Spanish **colonies** lasted an average of seven years **until** they **died**, usually of **overwork** and **disease**.

TEXT 5 & 6 Bush

Our enemies are innovative and resourceful, and so are we.

They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we.