Voice Prints

Para Alfredo Garcia y Florian Vlashi

Helena Palma







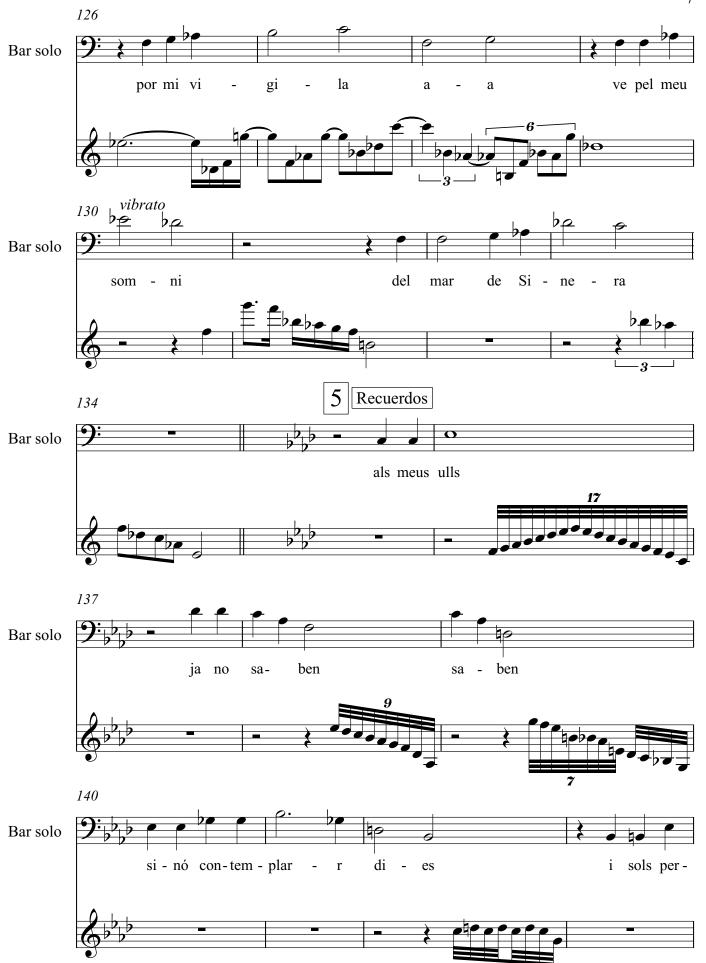


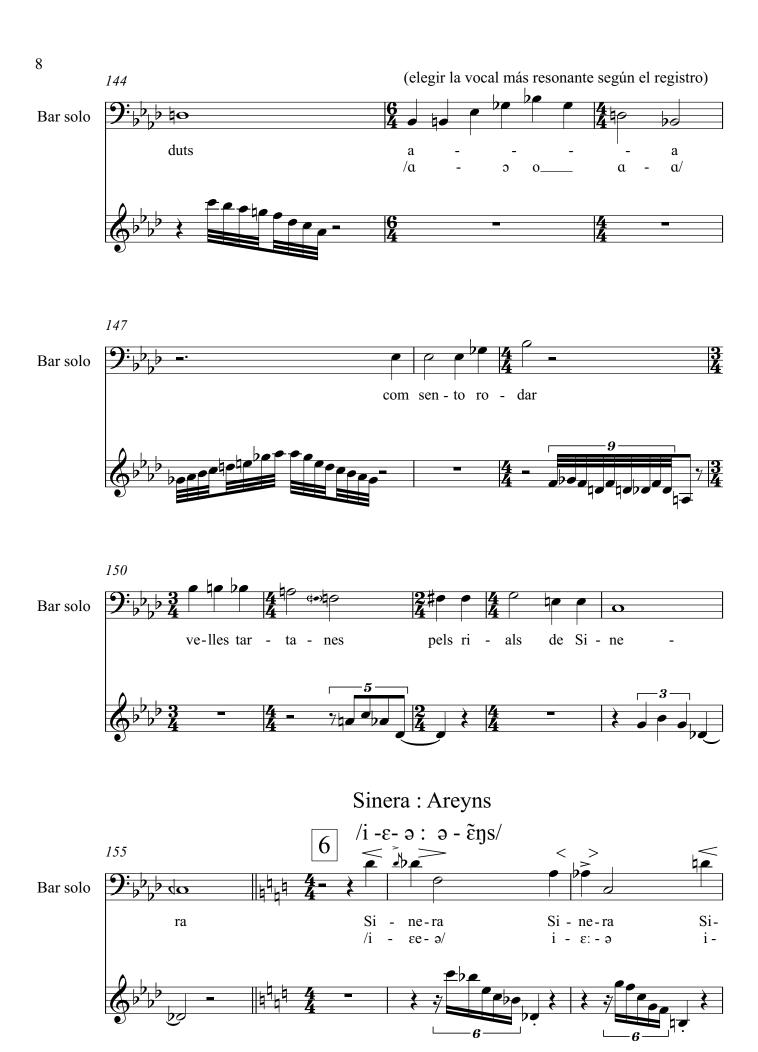


















Voice prints (VP) is a homage to our ancestors and the languages they used as tools to create and expand over large locations powerful civilisations. Ubi sunt? Where are our ancestors now? Have they disappeared? Those people and the locations they lived in are casted in infinite events created by our thoughts. We can hear the resonances of their voices in the roar of time. In VP the ancestors' voices are articulated by the voice of a baritone and of a violin who melt their timbre in resonances of the words uttered by a distant father: harmonics 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 9 of a fundamental Bb₁ tone:



How do we get to know them? We get acquainted with them by picking up out of those resonances the identifying features from which the voices of ancestors are assembled in our minds. We invite you to listen what they have to say to you and hence bring them back from an alleged Atlantis. VP includes phonemes, words and sentences sung and spoken in Scythian, Greek, Celtiberian (Luján, 2006; Rodríguez Ramos, 1997; Villar, 1995), Ubykh (Charachidze, 1989; Dumezil, 1931; Fell, 2012; Ladefoged, 2005), Albanian, Catalan, English, Galician, German, Spanish. Music is set to fragments of poems by Espriu (1946) (Cementiri de Sinera, poems 4, 17), Handke (1986) (Gedicht an die Dauer) and Llamazares (1982) (Memoria de la nieve, poem 2).

Text in the composition to be sung or spoken

Section 1: Questions, invocations, calls:

Qu-word: Ubi (Lat), où (Fr), onde (Gal), dónde (Sp), wo (Ger), where (Eng), ku (Albanian), opoú (Class. Gr), $max^{i} a / (Ubykh)^{1}$

- (1) a. ¿Dónde están? (Spanish)
 - b. *Ubi sunt?* (Latin)
 - c. On són? (Catalan)
 - d. /ma̞-ø-χa-na-y/ where-3PA-be.PL-PL-Q

- 'Where are they?' (Ubykh)
- e. *Ku janë ata?* (Albanian)
- f. /sa.ø.∫'.q'á.y/ what-3SA-become-PRT-Q 'What happend?' (Ubykh)

Section 1: Ancestors:

- (2) Celtiberian names (García Quintela, 2005)
 - a. Eburia² Kalueni
 - b. Apanus³ Amboli
 - c. Api⁴

- (3) Celtic names
 - a. Fénius Farsaid (king of Scythia)
 - b. Goidel Glas
 - c. Sru
 - d. Brath
 - e. Breogan

¹ Ubykh at UCLA: recording of speaker Tevfik Esenç made in 1986 by J. C. Catford.

² Celtic female name used in Galicia. Derived from "-ya", "eburo", a celtic word refering to the coniferous tree 'taxus baccata', 'tejo común ibérico' (texeiro, gal.). /beriya/, iberia

³ Brother of Apan. Apana is a female name derived from Api.

⁴ 'mother', 'water'. Name of Scythian goddess.

Section 2: Chant. Events of memory evoked through language

Language (Eng), Glossa (Greek), /bhza/ (Ubykh), Sprache (German), Gjuhë (Albanian).

They are chained in an event of infinite duration.

Sus voces braman en el tiempo

Susurros del viento

/s f ł s ∫ s/ (Ubykh fricative consonants)

pse (Albanian: 'why?')

En mi memoria de la nieve.

Kroykhasis (Scythian)

En la espiral del bramido del tiempo. (Julio Llamazares, Memoria de la nieve)

Locations where memory dwells

- (4) Section 6: Areyns⁵
 - a. Sinera /si.né.rə/
 - b. Areyns /ə.rέμz/
 - c. $/\int^w a/$ 'mar' (Ubykh)
 - d. $/\int^w a \int^w \acute{a}/$ Mediterranean Sea (Ubykh)
- (5) Scythia
 - a. Kroy-khasis 'Caucasus'⁶

- (6) Artabrian Coast
 - a. Arrotrebae /ar.trəβ.œ/'Artabria'
 - b. Artabri'the artabrian people'
 - c. Brigantis /bri.yãn.tis/ 'Brigantia'⁷
 - d. Ωκεανος okeanós'Ocean'
 - e. Atlantis⁸

⁵ Sinera, anagram of Areyns de Mar.

⁶ Pliny the Elder in Natural History (77-79 A.D.) attributes a Scythian origin to the name Caucasus "kroy-khasis" meaning '(mountain) ice-shining with white snow'. Online Etymology Dictionary: http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term="caucasus">caucasus

⁷ Name given by Breogan to the city of A Coruna.

⁸ Mythical island described in Plato's dialogues Timaeus and Critias, which allegedly became submerge into the Atlantic

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