

Parasitic

for processed mezzo-soprano and electronics

duration: 5 minutes

Andrew S. Allen

text by

Kelly Mayo

copyright © 2007

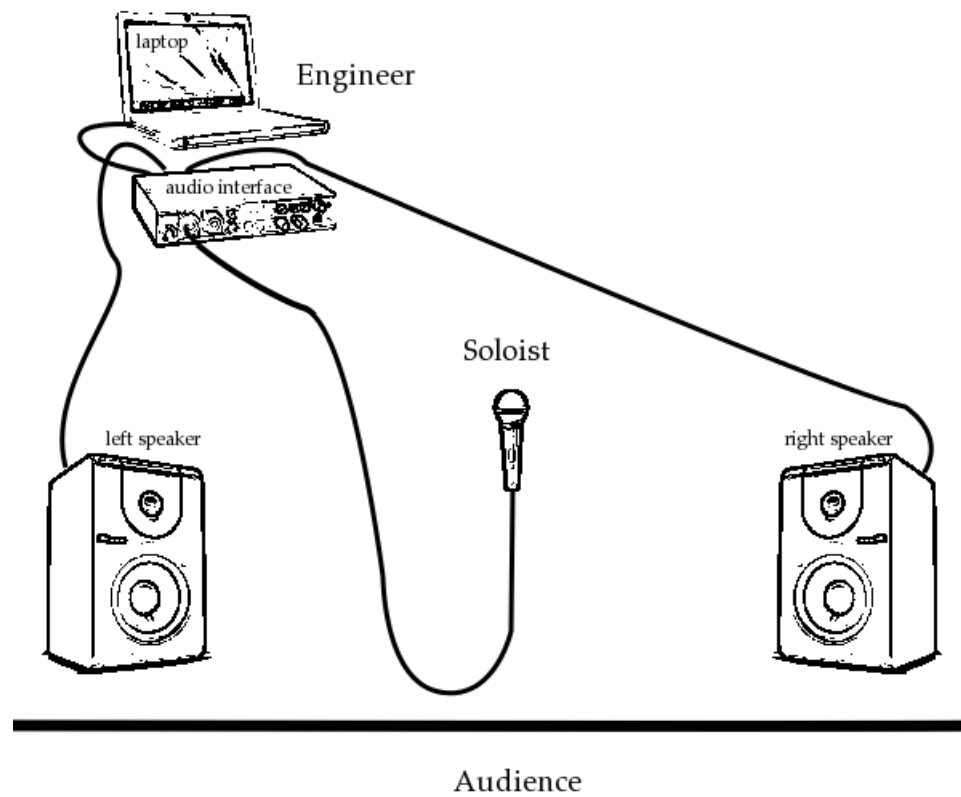
"Parasitic" by Kelly Mayo:

*wrapping herself up around the column,
reaching higher, stretching towards the endless energy of the sun,
the ivy will only stop for shade.
her grip raping the very bricks that give her life,
she is unable to flutter her silky green beauty
without scarring and eventually destroying all.*

MaxMSP instructions

To operate the patch, you must download and install the MaxMSP runtime application: <http://www.cycling74.com/>
The patch will start automatically. The engineer may begin the keyboard strokes immediately. To reset the patch quickly back to the beginning, press BACKSPACE and then ESC.

Stage Layout



Program Notes

While writing this piece, I wanted to create a sonic world that was both representative of the ivy and columns from the poem. The ivy is represented by three distinct voices that organically grow around microtonal pitches (pitch resulting from divided semitones). The columns are represented by pulse-like entrances of cold, slowly moving harmonies that roll in and out of the texture. The harmonies are constructed from a single generative cellular automata sequence. The combination results in a contrast of stasis and ubiquitous motion whilst the soprano sings a lamenting narration. The result is a work that immerses the audience in a sonic realm of simultaneous calm and chaos.

- Andrew Allen, April 2008

<http://www.AndrewStewartAllen.com/>

Parasitic

for processed mezzo-soprano and electronics
text by Kelly D. Mayo

Andrew S. Allen (ASCAP)

A brooding, ♩=52 **B** a tempo

ca. 30 secs rit. ca. 15 secs

Mezzo-Soprano

Wrap ing her - self up a - round the co-lumn Reach ing, reach-ing, reach - ing high-er

Electronics

Laptop (keyboard strokes)

[] [1] [Q] [Q] [2] [Q] [Q] [3] [Q] [] [3] [space] [] [3] [space] [space] [A]

C a tempo or slower molto rit. sotto voce

gradual accel. ♩=104 ca. 5 secs ca. 15 secs

M-S. 16 stretch - ing to - wards the end-less en-er-gy of the sun! The i - vy will on-ly stop for shade

E.

L. [space] [C] [S] [X] [space] [] [V] [Q] [1] [2] [3] [ESC] [] [1] [Q] [Q] [2] [Q] [Q] [3] [Q] [Q]

D a tempo

31 *ppp* *mf* *sfz mf* *sfz p* *mf* *molto accel.* *f* ca. 10 secs **E** a tempo *p*

M-S. her grip rap ing rap - ing the ve - ry bricks that brings her life She is un - ab - le

E.

L. space ; J space space Q J Q J space K D

41 *sfz* *sfz* *f* *p* *ppp* breath only

M-S. to flut - ter flut - ter un - ab - le to flut - ter flut - ter with - out scar - ring and e - ven - tual - ly de - stroy - ing all.

E.

L. ' space \ W