

Ancient Song

Thomasine O'Sullivan

*An archaic Roman melody, that has feasted on
courts and whispered through lyre*

Instructions:

- This work is for a flexible ensemble and is built around three layers: A set of melodic cells, a set of improvised chords, and a set of vocal cells
- Most importantly, each performer can and should switch between each layer when and as they please
- The melodic cells should be performed unchronologically, with the tempo and dynamic determined by the performer(s)
- For the vocal cells, the performer(s) should move through the 'consonant clusters' unchronologically, determining tempo, dynamic and pitch for themselves. The 'consonant clusters' should always be paired with a 'sound'. See attached audio file for a demonstration of this.
- The chords are to be improvised around. Unlike the other two layers, the performer(s) should move through them chronologically. For example, a performer may work through the first two chords, move onto some of the

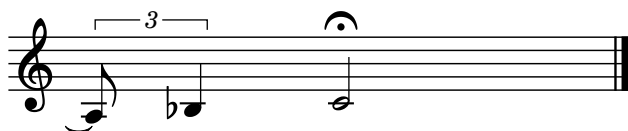
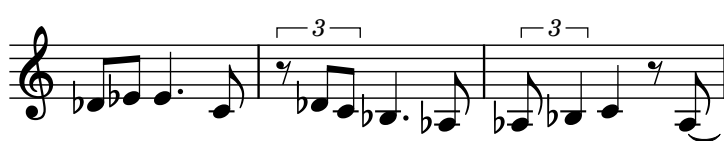
melodic cells, and then return to the chords continuing from the 3rd chord.

This work was written in August 2026 for the 19th International Eurythmics Symposium Dalcroze 2026, to be presented in Hellerau, Dresden in September of the same year.

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Melodic Cells

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- Chords

Ab

Gb

Fm

Db

Ab

Gb

E

Emaj6(#4)

Amaj6

G#

C#m

G#m

C#m

G#m

C#m

G#m

G(#4)

A

G(#4)

A

C#m

Ancient Song - vocal part

- The performer(s) should move through the consonant clusters unchronologically, in whichever order they please
- The consonant clusters must always be paired with a sound; The manner in which this is done must be free and up to the performer(s).

Consonant clusters:

'oo-wie-ah,' 'Takanakatakanakatakanaka,'

'Nee-ow,' 'Holo!'

'Hayden hayden kyaan hayden,'

Sounds:

- whisper - front of mouth nasal placement
- Hyena sound