

The Vitality of the Intangible

Words *Alan Rayner*
Music *Michæl Maxwell Steer*

There is a voice that speaks through silence
Letting us know
Who we really are resides in where we really are
Inhabitants of a place where time
Circulates through the very makings of our bodies
In living relationship with each other
In natural continuity

Here, we do not struggle for existence
We live and die in breathing
From one form to another
Inspiring and expiring
In endless relay

We do not survive the isolation of the fittest
Reigning supreme over deserted scene
There is no end to possibility
In omnipresent, receptive space –
That ever-present Prayer
Ever calling for response
From who knows where
Into who knows here

The vitality of the intangible
In all that's tangible
For a while

Alan Rayner and I met at The Tree Conference in Glastonbury organized by my daughter Suzi Steer Martineau. Alan was Reader in Botany At Bath University specializing in mycelial networks and a former President of the British Mycological Society. Since his retirement he has devoted himself to poetry and painting, and in public to advocating 'natural inclusionality' as a scientific approach to observing interconnections in the phenomenal world.

I was struck by many of his ideas, but none more than this remarkable poem, which I set to music shortly after the conference.

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Words Alan Rayner 2017

Music Michael Maxwell Steer

27/2 - 8/6 2018

The musical score is for the song "The Rose Tree" and is written for a vocal ensemble and piano accompaniment. It is in 4/4 time and marked "Andante" with a tempo of 68. The score is divided into three measures. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) enter in the first measure with the lyrics "Oo- eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo". The piano accompaniment (right and left hands) enters in the first measure with a melody of eighth notes. In the second measure, the vocal parts continue their melody, and the piano accompaniment continues with a similar eighth-note pattern. In the third measure, the vocal parts end with a final note, and the piano accompaniment ends with a final chord. The score includes dynamic markings such as "pp" (pianissimo) and "mp" (mezzo-piano), and articulation markings such as "p" (piano) and "Ah".

4

Ah

eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo

Ah

eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo

7

Ah

eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo

Ah

eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo

10

Ah

eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo

Ah

eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo

13

Ah

eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo

mf

There is a voice

f

There is a voice that speaks

16

eu- oo- eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo

that speaks throu the si- lence

Ah

eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo eh oo

throu the si- lence

19

eh oo eh oo eh oo ah oh aw oh aw oh aw oh aw oh aw oh aw oh aw oh

ppp

ah-

oo eh oo eh oo ah oh aw oh aw oh aw oh aw oh aw oh

Lett- ing us know

ppp

Ah- aw- ah-

29

air ee air ee air ee air ee air

hab- i-

aw ah aw ah aw ah aw ah

air ee air ee air ee air ee air ee ee air ee air ee air

hab- i-

ah aw ah aw ah aw ah aw ah

in- hab- i-

32

tants

tants of a place where time

oh air oh air oh air oh air oh air oh air oh air oh air

tants

hab- i- tants

in- hab- i- tants

tants

tants of a place where time

oh air oh air oh air oh air oh air oh air oh air oh air

tants

hab- i- tants

tants

45

48 *Slower*

u- it- y tin- u- it- y con- tin- u- it- y

Qf marcato e dim

con- tin- u- it- y

Qf marcato e dim

con- tin- u- it- y

pp

Here we do not

im my im con- tin- con- tin- u-

Qf

or ah or con- tin- ui- ty

mp

Here

49

strug- gle for ex-
ist- ence
Here we do not strug- gle for ex-
ist- ence
Here we do not
strug- gle Here we do not strug- gle for
Here
Here
we do

52

ist-
ence We live we live
ist-
ence We live We live
strug- gle for Here we do not strug- gle We live
we don't strug- gle
Here we do not strug- gle for ex- ist- ence live We live
not strug- gle We live We live

56

& die in breath- die in breath- & die in breath- ing We live & die in breath- ing

58

Tempo $\text{♩} = 3$

ing from one form to a- noth- er spir- ing ing from one form to a- noth- er in- spir- ing ing from one form to a- noth- er in-

62

in- spir- ing

in- spir- ing

in- spir- ing

in- spir- ing

66

ex- pir- ing

ex- pir- ing

and ex- spir- ing

ex- pir- ing

ex- pir- ing

end- in

70 Lazily - ad lib

ing in end-less re-lay We live & die in breath-ing From one

ing in end-less re-lay live & die in

less re-ay live & die

ing in end-less re-lay live & die in

less re-ay live & die

74

form to an-oth-er in-spir-ing & ex-pir-ing in end-less re-lay

spir-ing re-lay

spir-ing re-lay

spir-ing re-lay

spir-ing re-lay

78 *Animato*

f We do not sur- vive *fp* the is- o- la- tion

pp We do not sur- vive *f* we do not sur- vive *mp* i- so- la- tion

pp We do not sur- vive we do not sur- vive i- so- la- tion

pp We do not sur- vive we do not - i- so- la- tion

mf We do not sur- vive *fp* the is- o- la- tion

mf We do not sur- vive *fp* the is- o- la- tion

mf We do not sur- vive *fp* the is- o- la- tion

f We do not sur- vive *fp* the is- o- la- tion

We do not sur- vive the is- o- la- tion

82 *ff*

of the fitt- est Reign- ing su- preme ov- er a

of the fit of the fitt- est Reign- ing su- preme ov- er a

of the fit of the fitt- est

of the fit of the fitt- est

of the fitt- est Reign- ing su- preme ov- er a

of the fitt- est Reign- ing su- preme ov- er a

of the fitt- est Reign- ing su- preme ov- er a

of the fitt- est Reign- ing su- preme ov- er a

of the fitt- est preme ov- er a

86 88

des- ert- ed scene scene

ff *sfp* *pp* *mf*

des- ert- ed

There is no ...

des- ert- ed scene

There is no

des- ert- ed scene

There is

des- ert- ed scene

des- ert- ed scene

des- ert- ed scene

des- ert- ed scene

des- ert- ed scene

90

no end to

end to poss- i= bil- i-

mp

There is no

no end to

no end to poss-

94

poss- i- bil- i- ty

in om- ni- pres- ent

ty in om- ni- pres-

poss- i- bil- i- ty

i- bil- i- ty

98

om- ni- pres- ent space

in re- cep-

ent re- cep- tive space

There is

in om- ni- pres- ent space

in om- ni- pres-

There is no end

102

tive space

om- in- pres- ent re-

no end to poss- i- bil- i- ty

in om- ni pres- ent re- cept- tive space

ent re- cep- tive space

to poss- i- bil- i- ty

106

om- ni pres- ent, re- cep- tive space - that

om- ni pres- ent, re- cep- tive space -

om- ni pres- ent, re- cep- tive space -

om- ni pres- ent, re- cep- tive space - that

space

space

114

ing for re- sponse

ing for re- sponse

from who knows where to who knows here

tan- gi- ble – ...ah...

For a while

126

For a while

For a

129

while

For a while

[illegible]

139

For a while

The vi- tal- i- ty

For a while

The vi- tal- i- ty

The vi- tal- i-

For a while

The vi- tal- i- ty

143

of the in- tan- gi- ble

vi- tal- i- ty! of _

of the in- tan- gi- ble

vi- tal- i- ty! of _

of the in- tan- gi- ble

vi- tal- i- ty! of _

ty of the in

147

th'in- tan- gi- ble in all all that's in- vis- i- ble

th'in- tan- gi- ble in all all that's in- vis- i- ble

th'in- tan- gi- ble in all all that's in- vis- i- ble

th'in- tan- gi- ble in all all that's in- vis- i- ble

150

for a while for a while for a while for a while

for a while for a while for a while for a while

for a while for a while for a while for a while

for a while for a while for a while for a while

154

while

while

while

while