

## A COLLECTIVE CLEANSING

# Lisa Bielawa

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### Note

Premiere: September 2000, The Kitchen, NYC with the composer performing  
Duration: 15'  
Instrumentation: Solo voice and digital audio

Selected choral excerpts from the Aeschylus tragedy *The Suppliant Maidens* are the setting for Ms. Bielawa's multi-tracked, vocal soundtrack electronically composed in both Greek and English. She explores the personalities of the 50 Danaids, the daughters of the Greek king Danaos, in their individual and collective roles, her voice both communally interacting while sometimes coexisting in separate expressive layers. A broad range of emotional textures emerges, all of them organic to the sound of her voice and the language of the play. The tension between the digital sound technology and the unique natural instrument of the human voice provides grounds for exploration of the key issues in *A Collective Cleansing*; the exponential, seductive expansion of industry and technology, and its continued effects upon our sustaining environment. – Cynthia Cox

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in the earth, on the heights, in this air.	(lines 679-680)
On earth a godhost gives order to nature Which god shall I cry to?	(lines 790-792)
The Father Urge of my green life	(lines 794-795)
Never may they know the peace that scorched earth brings	(lines 865-866)
Flower of youth    bud unstemmed	(line 894)
must not mow down the finest blooms	(line 897)
Truth stops my breath ...what was the earthly use?	(line 980)
...born to treachery and crammed with unclean hungers...	(lines 995-996)
io io ioioioioio O Earth O healing hills	(lines 1027-1029)
Must I be forced against heart's dream into a murderous bed?	(lines 1082-1063)
Dream!    Black    dream!	(line 1076)
I left my reverence beside the Nile.	(line 1220)
...heart's guide.	(line 1281)
Be trustful, Father.	(line 1342)
Sing praise to rivers that rise...	(line 1357)
...sun-oiled streams ...pleasurous waters to sweeten the dust of the mother Earth and fulfill her with life upon life	(lines 1359-1362)
And in her motherlight soft daughters walk,	(line 1375)