

Lisa Bielawa

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Note

Premiere: 1996; the Cascabel Vocal Trio
Duration: 3'
Instrumentation: three sopranos

text by Gertrude Stein:
from *Advertisements*

I was so disappointed in the boat. It was larger than the other. It did not have more accomodation. It made the noise which was disagreeable. I feel that I would have been willing to say that I liked it if I had not seen it when it was painted. It is well never to deceive me.

In 1996, three superb singer colleagues in the NYC new music community - soprano Marion Beckenstein (of Steve Reich and Musicians), mezzo-soprano Katie Geissinger (of the Meredith Monk Vocal Ensemble) and Alexandra Montano (who created numerous roles in works by Philip Glass) - decided to form a virtuoso vocal trio that could sing vocal ensemble repertoire with a soloistic bent. This short piece was written for their start-up core repertoire, which they developed over the course of the year and sang in numerous lofts and private concerts all over NYC's underground music scene. The text was chosen to celebrate our shared appreciation of the absurd.

– Lisa Bielawa

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