

Flesh (2018)

for accordion solo with recitation

Flesh is dedicated to Krassimir Sterev with whom I worked closely investigating this very particular palette of sounds for the accordion combined with the voice.

Each change in the direction of the bellows is closely controlled: the opening of the bellows is accompanied with a fast and regular rhythmic changing of the chin registers, and the closing of the bellows then with the voice.

The text is recited on an out or in-breath, half-whispered, nearly "silent" or suppressed beneath a hand. The text flows unrelenting yet beneath the surface, barely comprehensible. At times single words or phrases rear up and become clear, and are then consumed back within the flow of the recitation.

The text explores a particularly explicit fragment of Molly Bloom's interior monologue, the final chapter of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. I wished to rebuke any coy clichéd interpretation of Molly Bloom, exploring the fathomless depths this monologue unleashes: a raw sexual energy per se and not confined to any narrow definition of sex and gender.

RS

