



PARTURITION

iii. I Am Climbing A Mountain

for SATB chorus, piano, & opt. electronics

[2026]

*Commissioned and premiered by
Modern Sound Collective - Kai Leung, artistic director
Toronto ON Canada*

texts adapted by
FRANCESCA HAUSER
from
MINA LOY, LOLA RIDGE & PSALM 22

music by
FRANCESCA HAUSER



ABOUT THE PIECE

Parturition is an extended work for choir, piano, electronics, and features text by Mina Loy and Lola Ridge alongside excerpts from Psalm 22. The piece explores abstract depictions of the painful and transformative experience of childbirth and creation, drawing parallels to the artists experience - both of which involve journeys and processes that are often romanticized and faced quietly inward.

Parturition considers how identity is formed through pain and a sustained commitment to process. It reflects on the unromantic and unavoidable nature of that process, the sense of release that comes with accepting creation as something to nurture but not control, and the discomfort of critically challenging ones identity within any creative pursuit. This largely is conveyed through imagery of a mountain; the common thread weaving all texts used in the piece together.

The fixed media used in *Parturition* is a combination of distorted spoken text and atmospheric field recordings mixed with synth pads. The spoken text are archival recordings of Mina Loy's recitation of this poetry. Her recitation of the text is not meant to be easily deciphered by listeners. Rather, her spoken tone and cadence meld her text from 100 years ago with music composed in 2026, bringing this reflection firmly to the present.

The atmospheric field recordings mixed with synth pads immerse listeners on a journey up this 'distorted mountain of agony' (Mina Loy). Sounds of the city, cicadas, and birds create new sound environments, playing with elements of high and low frequencies in each of the movements at different points in this Journey.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Francesca Hauser (b.2001) is a Canadian composer and vocalist. She performs, composes, records and orchestrates a wide variety of music spanning across different genres and media. She is known for her atmospheric and evocative settings of texts in art song and choral work.

Her music has been performed by celebrated ensembles across Canada, the United States and Europe such as the Los Angeles Choral Lab, Malmo Academy of Music, and Ontario Youth Choir. Francesca's vocal, compositional, and orchestration work can be heard in *Warframe*, a free-to-play video game franchise with over 80 million players globally (with Matthew Chalmers). She has been mentored by esteemed musicians including Libby Larsen, Monica Whicher, and Steven Philcox. Francesca holds a BMus ('23) in Voice and MMus ('25) in Music Technology & Digital Media from the University of Toronto, where she was awarded the William and Phyllis Waters Graduating Award.



ADAPTED TEXT

by **Francesca Hauser**

sourced from

Parturition - Mina Loy (1882-1966)

The Edge - Lola Ridge (1873-1941)

Mother - Lola Ridge

Psalm 22 (NIV)

1. I AM THE CENTRE

*I thought to die that night in the solitude
where they would never find me...*

But there was time . . .

*And I lay quietly on the drawn knees of a mountain
I do not know how long I could not count the hours
But I remember*

*I am the centre of a circle of pain
Exceeding its boundaries
In every direction
It seems life held
No future or past
Blow through me wind
I gather to myself*

*Scatter me in petals
Scatter me over the passers by
I must traverse myself*

2. I SHOULD BE CONSONANT

*I should be consonant in time
I should be scarcely perceptible
Scarcely a woman
I see her in starlight
I see her in gleams
I see her in my mother
I see my mother
Mother I am identical to you*

3. I AM CLIMBING A MOUNTAIN

*My god, my god why have you forsaken me?
I am climbing a mountain of distorted agony
Pain calls up in me
The wild beast is nearer still
The foam of a mouth is no part of myself
Many bulls surround me I cry out by day but you do not answer me
You brought me out of the womb
You lay me in the dust
My god, my god
I reach for the summit of repose which never comes
For another mountain is growing up
Scarcely myself*

4. I THOUGHT TO DIE

*I thought to die that night in the solitude
Where they would never find me
But there was time
And I lay quietly on the drawn knees of a mountain
Staring the abyss in the eye
I do not know how long
I could not count the hours
They ran so fast shaking my hands away
But I remember the wind came out of the grass
Touching me gently as the night grew
The cloud that covered the sky
Fell in folds about the hills
There must have been a moon
A shimmer of silver
This too I remember
And the tenderly rocking mountain
Silence, and beating stars
Dawn lay like a hand upon the world
And folded hills broke into a wonder of peaks
Stemmed clear and cold
Til it bloomed like a lily
And folded hills fell in wonder of sun
Blow through me wind...*

FULL SCORE vs INDIVIDUAL MOVEMENTS

This publication contains only a single movement of a complete four-movement work. For information on how to obtain the complete score for *Parturition*, please visit:

<https://www.modernsoundcollective.ca/store/msc0025-parturition/>

FIXED MEDIA / ELECTRONICS

Detailed instructions for executing the optional electronics component of this work are included with the Parturition Audio Package, available as a separate purchase.

For performances opting not to use the electronics component, the conductor may expedite or skip over any significant pauses (meant to feature the electronics) at their discretion.

Please visit [modernsoundcollective.ca/msc0025b-parturition-audio](https://www.modernsoundcollective.ca/msc0025b-parturition-audio) for additional details.

MSC Presents

MSC Presents, launched in 2023 by Toronto's Modern Sound Collective (artistic director: Kai Leung), is a progressive new publication label serving as a professional distribution platform for the music of MSC-affiliated composers. Offering an extremely competitive royalty rate to its artists, this initiative aims to create accessible opportunities for growth and collaboration for the many talented young choral composers in the GTA and beyond.

PRINTING

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MSC Presents:
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texts adapted by
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1

ELECTRONICS

Very slowly and freely

(cont'd from prev. mot.)

fade and stop: 3. Locusts

fade and stop: TEXT Mother I am

PIANO

Very slowly and freely

ff *mp* *p*

5

Pno.

More in time

mp *mf* *f* *p*

8 Intense and expressive ♩ = 80

S.

A.

My God, My God, Why have you for - sak-en me?

My God, My God, Why have you for - sak-en me?

Pno.

8 Intense and expressive ♩ = 80

13

mp *f*

S. I am climb - ing a moun - tain a moun - tain of dis - tor - ted ag - o - ny

A. I am climb - ing a moun - tain a moun - tain of dis - tor - ted ag - o - ny

Pno. *mf*

18

p *pp*

S. Pain calls up in me Pain calls up in

A. Pain calls up in me Pain calls up in

Pno. *p* *pp*

23 Desperately building ♩ = 50

S. me

A. me

T. *p* The wild beast is near - er

B. *p* The wild beast is near - er

Pno. *mp*

26

pp

S. is near - er still _____

pp

A. is near - er still _____

T. still The foam of a mouth is no part of my - self _____

B. still The foam of a mouth is no part of my - self _____

Pno.

29

mf

A. you do not an - swer

mf

T. Ma-ny bulls sur-round me, I cry out by day but you do not an - swer me

mf

B. Ma-ny bulls sur-round me, I cry out by day but you do not an - swer me

mf

Pno. accel. poco a poco. . . .

35 A boiling pot ♩ = 60

33

f *p sub.*

S. you do not an - swer me you

A. me an - swer me you

T. you do not an - swer me you brought me out of the womb, you lay me

B. an - swer me you brought me out of the womb, you lay me

f *p sub.*

Pno.

35 A boiling pot ♩ = 60

36

mf *f*

S. you brought me

A. you brought me

T. in the dust, you brought me out of the womb, you lay me in the dust, you

B. in the dust, you brought me out of the womb, you lay me in the dust, you

mf *f*

mf *f*

accel. poco a poco. . .

Pno.

39

S. out of the womb, — you lay me in the dust, you brought me out of the womb, — you lay me

A. out of the womb, — you lay me in the dust, you brought me out of the womb, — you lay me

T. lay — me in the dust, you lay me, you lay me

B. lay me in — the dust, you lay — me, you lay me

Pno. *f*

42

S. in the dust, my God, my God, my God, my

A. in the dust, my God, my God, my God, my God, my —

T. in the dust, my God, my God, my God, my God, my

B. in the dust, my God, my God, my —

Pno. *ff*

43 $\text{♩} = 69$ rit.

Pleading ♩ = 60

sensitively

S. *mp* *p*
 God, my God, I reach for the sum-mit of re - pose which nev-er comes, for an-oth-er

A. *mp* *p*
 God my God, I reach for the sum-mit of re - pose which nev-er comes for an-oth-er

T. *mp* *p*
 God, my God, re pose— for an-oth-er

B. *mp* *p*
 God, my God, re - pose for an-oth-er

Pleading ♩ = 60

sensitively

Pno. *mp* *p*



S. *poco a poco cresc.*
 moun - tain is grow-ing up an-oth-er moun - tain, an-oth-er moun - tain, an-oth-er

A. *poco a poco cresc.*
 moun - tain is grow-ing up an-oth-er moun - tain, an-oth-er moun - tain,

T. *poco a poco cresc.*
 moun - tain is grow-ing up an-oth-er moun - tain, an-oth-er moun - tain, an-oth-er

B. *poco a poco cresc.*
 moun - tain is grow-ing up an-oth-er moun - tain, an-oth-er moun - tain,

51

Pno.

53

S. *mf*
moun - tain an-oth-er moun - tain, an-oth-er moun - tain an-oth-er moun - tain

A. *mf*
an-oth-er moun - tain, an-oth-er moun - tain, scarce - ly my - self

T. *mf*
moun - tain, an-oth-er moun - tain, an-oth-er moun - tain, an-oth-er moun - tain, an-oth-er

B. *mf*
an-oth-er moun - tain, an-oth-er moun - tain, scarce - ly my - self

Pno. *mf*

57

S. *f*
an-oth-er moun - tain, an-oth-er moun - tain, scarce - ly my - self

A. *f*
scarce - ly my - self scarce - ly my - self

T. *f*
moun - tain an-oth-er moun - tain, scarce - ly my - self

B. *f*
scarce - ly my - self scarce - ly my - self

Pno. *f*

58 Earnestly lost

59 Earnestly lost

61

S. *mp*
scarce - ly my - self scarce - ly my - self

A. *mp*
scarce - ly my - self scarce - ly my - self

T. *mp*
scarce - ly my - self scarce - ly my - self

B. *mp*
scarce - ly my - self scarce - ly my - self

Pno. *m*

65

S. *pp*
scarce - ly my - self

A. *pp*
scarce - ly my - self

T. *pp*
scarce - ly my - self

B. *pp*
scarce - ly my - self

67

(AUDIO 5)

PLAY: Transition Movement 3-4

PLAY: Transition Movement 3-4 ATMOS

Elec. (cont's)

67

opt. endpoint
if only performing mvt. 3

Pno. *pp* *p*

69

Pno.



74

Pno.



78

Elec.

fade and stop: Transition Movement 3-4
fade and stop: Transition Movement 3-4 ATMOS

(wait until audio fades completely, then go on)

Pno.

l.v. until audio fades completely



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TITLE	COMPOSER	VOICING/INSTRUMENTATION	TEXT	DUR.	YEAR	SKU
<u>The Affable Enigma</u>	Danial Sheibani	SSSAAATTBB a cappella	Rūmī	3 min	2021	MSC0009
<u>Dawn, Where Are You Now?</u>	Sami Anguaya	SSAATTBB, piano, 2 woodblocks	Sami Anguaya	4 min	2024	MSC0013
<u>Far and Away*</u>	Sean McIntyre	SSAATTBB a cappella	Sean McIntyre	5 min	2021	MSC0026
<u>Generation 2.5</u>	Kai Leung	SSAATTBB a cappella	Kai Leung	7 min	2024	MSC0014
<u>Gratitude</u>	H. Zack Ferns	SATB a cappella	L.M. Montgomery	4 min	2024	MSC0017
<u>Hope is the Thing with Feathers</u>	Rémi St-Jacques	SATB a cappella	Emily Dickinson	3.5 min	2020	MSC0019
<u>I.</u>	Michael Nunes	SSAATTBB a cappella	Erica Kath	3 min	2019	MSC0018
<u>I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes</u>	H. Zack Ferns	SSAATTBB a cappella	Psalms 121 (KJV)	3 min	2024	MSC0022
<u>In the Lemon Groves</u>	Kento Stratford	SSAATTBB & piano	James Clarke	7 min	2024	MSC0023
<u>Jabberwocky</u>	Nicholas Wanstall	SATB & piano	Lewis Carroll	6 min	2024	MSC0024
<u>Lying Awake, Waiting</u>	Sami Anguaya	SSAATTBB a cappella	Tom Robinson & Sami Anguaya	4 min	2022	MSC0001
<u>May This Place</u>	Nicholas Wanstall	SSAATB a cappella	Nicholas Wanstall	3 min	2018	MSC0006
<u>Ah, Moon of My Delight!</u>	Hirad Moradi	SSAATTBB a cappella	Omar Khayyam	8 min	2022	MSC0015
<u>Parturition*</u>	Francesca Hauser	SSAATTB, piano, electronics	Mina Loy, Lola Ridge, Francesca Hauser	18 min	2026	MSC0025
<u>Le Pont Mirabeau</u>	Nicholas Wanstall	SATB, soloist, & piano	Guillaume Apollinaire	4 min	2024	MSC0016
<u>Remember</u>	Madox Terrell	SSAATTBB a cappella	Christina Rossetti	2.5 min	2020	MSC0010
<u>The Sirens' Song</u>	Carol Kayee Mak	SSATBB & piano	William Browne	5 min	2019	MSC0008
<u>Somewhere in Space</u>	Emily Green	SSAA & percussion trio	Edith Södergran	3.5 min	2023	MSC0002
<u>Spring and Fall</u>	Elizabeth Legierski	SSAATTBB a cappella	Gerard Manley Hopkins	3 min	2018	MSC0007
<u>The Swallows (To Youth)*</u>	Tyrese Walters	SSAATTBB a cappella	Leonora Speyer	4 min	2025	MSC0027
<u>That Shadow, My Likeness</u>	Francesca Hauser	SSAATTBB & piano	Walt Whitman & Christina Rossetti	4 min	2024	MSC0013
<u>This is Not Love</u>	Tyrese Walters	SSAATTBB a cappella	Elsa Gidlow	3 min	2024	MSC0020
<u>'Tis Moonlight</u>	Pari Bahrami	SSAATTBB & piano	Emily Jane Brontë	6 min	2024	MSC0021
<u>Too Still for Dreams</u>	E.K.R. Hammell	SSAATTBB & piano	A.E. Wetherald	4.5 min	2022	MSC0003
<u>Twilight</u>	Francesca Hauser	SSAATTBB & piano	Sara Teasdale	3.5 min	2022	MSC0004
<u>What the Silence Offers</u>	Emily Green	SSAATTBB, soloist, & amplified speaker	Erica Kath	9 min	2022	MSC0012
<u>When David Heard</u>	Kai Leung	SSAATTBB a cappella	2 Samuel 18:33	3 min	2022	MSC0005