

Phantoms

Phantoms (2016) was my first attempt to set my own text and also was my first involved vocal work. It was a struggle for myself, not being a vocalist. I took great pains to make the singing in this piece feasible (by creating context within the string section for the vocalists where there had not been any before) and to exploit the string instruments' abilities to play multiple notes and vary tone quality (hopefully resulting in a piece with a more dynamic quality).

Phantoms

When you're so tired you cannot sleep
So much to say when you can't speak
And the specters have come again
Heroes' dreams dead by my own hand

It is useless using me now
I am broken; I am unbound

I must confess my transgression
I must profess this false belief
to think all things within my grasp
to think I was fated to be

When you're too scared to make amends
The long night finds that fear again
To truly forgive is to change
To lose part of yourself again

It is useless using me now
I am lost, to remain unfound
I am lost, to remain unfound

- Julian Ward -

This recording captures a performance by an ECU ensemble:
Kimberly Ness, conductor; Chloe Agostino, soprano; Gina Marie Falk, soprano; Baajah Mohammed, soprano; Alexandra Fee, alto; Elijah Cole, tenor; James Taylor, tenor; Cory Whaley, tenor; Skylar McKee, bass; Chris Taylor, violin I; Anonymous, violin II; Rebecca Kim, viola; Daniel Lail, cello; Aidan McManis, double bass.