

La Langue Maternelle

For voice and fixed media

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Program Notes

Written in the audio software languages of SuperCollider and Paul Koonce's PVCplus, *La Langue Maternelle* is an exercise in semantic discourse between the notions of 'translation' and 'transformation.' A self-designed algorithm, akin to the sestina form, generated a fixed syllabic/vocal score based on a common English expression and its French translation. Onset detection, impulse response convolution, and various signal-processing procedures were then utilized to interrupt or reposition a recorded realization. The stream of aligning syllables reflects an erratic fluctuation between translations, as well as an obstruction of textual meaning. *La Langue Maternelle* is dedicated to Justin, Muriel, and Albert.

Score Notes

There are three different types of noteheads in the score to *La Langue Maternelle*:

The first is the standard, elliptical notehead, which indicates that the performer should realize the note with the standard Western method.

Filled-diamond noteheads rest on one of the five staff ledger lines. The performer is instructed to divide their vocal range into fifths, and depending on which ledger line the notehead is located, the performer should sing a pitch in that interval. If there are repeated filled-notes on the same ledge line, the performer is free to repeat the pitch or modulate to another pitch in that same range.

X'd noteheads rest on the middle ledger line and should be spoken.

La Langue Maternelle

1 $\text{♩} = 90-110$ robotic *mp* *pp* *f* **molto rit.** *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Voice [a - o - f] [t - k - æ - g - l - â t - g -

5 *p* *mp* stutter *ff* whisper *pp* **a tempo**

Voice v - a - m] [ər - y - n - ʒ - ɔ - d [ŋ - t -

9 **poco rit.** *mp* *f* **a tempo**

Voice [ʌ] [ʌ - ŋ t - f - a o

13 **molto rit.** flow *mp* *ppp* **a tempo**

Voice [d - n - ɔ - ʒ - æ - t k]

17 **poco accel.** erratic vib. *p* *ff* *mf* *pp* *p* *f* *p* rapid *mf* *ff* **a tempo**

Voice [yɛ - o - ɔɪ - ər] [â g - l ma

21 **confused** *mf* *f* *mp* **question** stutter *mf* *f* *mp* **poco accel.**

Voice [o - t - g] [gɔ - t] "go - t?" [t - ʌ ŋ

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a tempo question ----- | rapid whisper

25 *p* *mf* *f* *mp* *ff* *pp*

Voice "am?" "au - cha - at?" [lâg] [3] [don]

erradict *vib.* stutter ----- |

29 *mf* *ff* *p* *mf* *pp*

Voice [ər - y - k - æ] [t] [t k - æ t]

poco rit. ----- | **a tempo**

erratic *dyn* slur / drunk / stutter ----- | question

33 *mp* *f* *p* *ff* *mf* *mp* *ff* *mf* *mp*

Voice g - v - y - ər] [ɲ t ^] [n - 3 ɔ d] "ma" "mm?" "ma?"

molto rit. ----- | **a tempo**

flow *p* *f* *p* *mf*

37 *gliss.* *mf*

Voice [g - l - â] [o -] [f - a - o -]

41 *f* *mp*

Voice æt - kâ g - lɔ t - g - am - ər y - d - n - ɔ 3 - ʌ - ɲ t

6 question ----- | **poco rit.** ----- | **a tempo**

45 *mf* *ff* *pp* *mp* *pp* *f* *p*

Voice "tongue?" [o - ʃa] [3] [3] "donne"

49

erradict vib. *sfp* *f* *mp* robotic *p* *f* *mp* *pp* *mf*

Voice

"donne" [kæ t yər]

53

flow *p* *mf* *pp* *mp* *f* quesiton *mp* whisper *pp* defiant strong [t]

Voice

[lâ ma] "got" [gɔt] "got?" [gɔt] "got!"

57

poco accel. *mp* *stutter mp* *ff* *a tempo* *p* *sfp* *mf* *ff*

Voice

[t - gɔ - ŋ tɔ] [a - o - f g] [lâ] [ɔ - d - ər - y] [k - æ æt]

61

whisper *p* *mf* *p* *f* *pp*

Voice

[æ t kɔ t - g - yər ɔ - ŋ - d n ɔ]

65

molto rit. *mp* *pp* *a tempo*

Voice

ma âg - l - ja - o]

69

robotic *f* *p* *f* whisper *mp* *pp*

Voice

[o - fa kæ - t - lâ gɔ - t - am - ər - y - ɔ - d - ɔ n - t ɔ - ŋ]

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poco accel. **a tempo**
erratic vib. *stutter*

73 10 *p* *ff* *mf* *pp* *p* *f* *mp*

Voice [ŋ - t - ʌ] [a o j n - ʒ]

rapid
mf *ff* *mp* *f* *p*

77 [d - t - kæ yər g - lâ ma]

11
flow *mf* *f* **poco rit.** *p* *f* *p* **a tempo**

81 *gliss.* [t - ɣ - v t - g ʌ - ŋ]

stutter *whisper* *erratic vib.*

85 *mp* *ff* *p* *f* *p*

Voice [t] [am - o - ʃa o] [â - g - l d -]

poco rit.
whisper 12 *sfp* *mf* *ff*

89 *mp* *pp* *mp* n - ɔ ʒ ər y - æ t - k [k æ t]

a tempo
stutter *question* *defiant strong* [t] *stutter*

93 *mp* *mf* *f* *p*
gliss. [t] "got?" "got!" [gɔ]

97 *mp* *pp* **poco accel.** *erractic vib* **a tempo**

Voice

[yɛ - o - oʊ - ər]

101 *mf* *ff* **molto rit.** *flow* *robotic* **a tempo** *smile*

Voice

[tʌŋ] [ɜ - dɔn - ma - lâg - oʃa ɜ dɔn - ma - lâg - o - ʃa]