

Longing to Hear Your Music¹

*Ah! If only I could (at a live performance)
Behold the movements of your mouth,
Catch the inflections in your pitch,
Dote upon your turns of phrase,
Empty myself in pauses serious and somber,
Feel the quiver in your laugh,
Gain your music for my own!*

¹ 2013-02-27.

Descensus inferni²

*Dead, he descended to the dead
Damned, he dared to lead the damned
Harrowed hell to populate paradise
No state, name, or place
Proved off-limits in his pursuit
Of those whom he loved*

*Like his, my love for you knows no limits
There's nowhere I will not give chase
No place too high, too low, if at your side
No insult, no punishment I cannot bear
No sickness in body or mind I will not touch
Nothing at all beyond my care*

*If you are elated, I rise with you
If depressed, I am in anguish
If victorious, I hold you aloft
If defeated, I fall as well
If healthy, I thrive with you
If weak, I suffer too*

*I will not, cannot ever leave you
Am compelled to linger at your side
They say, till death do we part
But I object, I protest, I refuse
Ever to be separated from you
And I damn God if he dare try*

*But thanks be to the One
Who objected, protested, refused
Ever to be separated from us
And dared to damn himself
Transcended Time, surpassed Space,
And made Death's wall an open window.*

Ariadne³

*Labyrintho daedalo
Femina amoena iam
Hunc heroem perduxit
Dispar illi Theseus
Hic heros reduxerit
Feminam ambrosiam
Horti vino cum voto.*

³ 2013-04-28.

*Ma danseuse moderne (Partie 1)*⁴

*When she stands at neutral
I'm stricken with silence*

*When she is bent
I bow with respect*

*When she twirls
It dizzies my senses*

*When she slides
My heart skips a beat*

*When she triplets
I bob in time*

*When she isolates
I'm obsessed*

*When she initiates
I'm forced to move*

*Ma danseuse moderne (Partie 2)*⁵

*When she prances
I'm her stallion*

*When she gallops
I run with her*

*When she overcurves
My horizon appears*

*When she brushes
I'm swept off my feet*

*When she straightens
It firms my resolve*

*When she yields
I'm slain*

*When she pushes off
I die a little death*

⁵ 2013-05-12.

Tuus Esau

Pro scipo rubro grandis

Acetari viridis

Lentis et atriplicis

Et horti laeti frondis

Mei olitoricis

Primis privilegiis

Sim desolatus istis

Elegance

*Elegance comes easily
To you in all that you do
When you wash with tender care
When you speak in Frankish tongue
When you glide your gait in time
When you bring good tea to boil
When you rest your eyes to dream
When you wash from ev'ry care
When you speak with wordless tongue
When you glide your hips in time
When you bring all to a boil
When you rest me in a dream
Elegant in ev'rything
In ev'ry word, move, and way*

The Sword of Your Mouth⁸

*As sharp as a knife your words
Cut through mine, flaying them all
For exposure to the heat
Of love, mercy, compassion,
Transforming them into food
That feeds heart, soul, mind, and strength,
Mends wounds, breaks and makes new bonds*

⁸ 2013-06-09.

You Smiled

*You smiled just now at something
You read and again I saw
The beauty of everything
In you, the meaning, the end
Of my life, my finitude
Dreaming of infinitude,
All in a simple, short glance*

My Biotechnologist¹⁰

*My biotechnologist
Is lovely in her lab coat
Turning colors with no blot
Looking deep without a scope
Sharing liquids sans pipette
Merging genes with no machine
Working in our lab of love*

¹⁰ 2013-06-23.

Straight Ruger¹¹

*“Not straight” was the call from inside
The lady scrum who formed in pride
’Round a ruck by another name.
When all the scrum had found a mate,
The ball then fell to Number Eight,
Who drove the breakdown of the same,
To find the line, to mount a try,
To spot a mark, to score a guy.*

¹¹ 2013-06-30.

My Home²

*Where'er you are is my home:
Your voice on a distant phone,
Words typed on a far off screen,
In your car, or else in mine,
In your bed, and now in mine.
Asleep, awake, in between,
You're my sound, my sight, my dream.*

*An Old Soul*¹³

*Swimming in a sea of grey,
Though young, you knew how to play.
As yet spared from shiv'ring bones,
You nestled to me with groans,
Heard the strains of bygone years,
Laughed their laughs and cried their tears.
You were born with an old soul.*

Made for Me¹⁴

*The angels who fashioned you
Steeled a will to see us through
Forged a mind to sharpen mine
Crafted eyes to peer through mine
Lips whose taste is ever sweet
Limbs whose locks are ever meet,
And said, "Very, very good."*

*Better Counsel*¹⁵

*She doesn't have to boom like
Finch to sing true, or rant like
Kirkland to tell, or burn like
Mason to glow, or dress like
Matlock to shine, or wink like
McBeal to woo, or squeak like
Woods to win the case for me.*

¹⁵ 2013-07-29.

*Liberal Comedy*¹⁶

*Mollis sedit sicut aqua
Rudis brutes risit brutis
Morata reis civilis
Barbara versum odia*

¹⁶ 2013-08-05.

*My Wicked Words*¹⁷

*Make a mockery of all
The careful words I have crooned,
The unkept tears I have wept,
The solemn signs I have made,
For you, my long-lost lover,
Who art true, worthy of trust,
Whom hurting, myself have harmed.*

¹⁷ 2013-08-21.

The Act¹⁸

I will always love you
and curse the way I treated you.

You will always be with me
and never be with me again.

You will go on telling your truth, as you should.
I will go on telling my truth, as I should.

Though our truths co-exist in the same world,
they can and will never harmonize again.

The world is not one stage, but billions.
We are all our own players.

Taking direction is
temporary solidarity is
temporary submission.

Act on.
In doing so,
bid me act on, too.

¹⁸ 2021-04-02.