

CARL'S REPLY

for baritone, chromelodeon and Strega (semi modular synth)
music by Michael Roth
texts by Alice Ripley/Michael Roth and derived from the liturgy

Carl Andre reflecting on the life and work and shocking death
of his wife Ana Mendieta

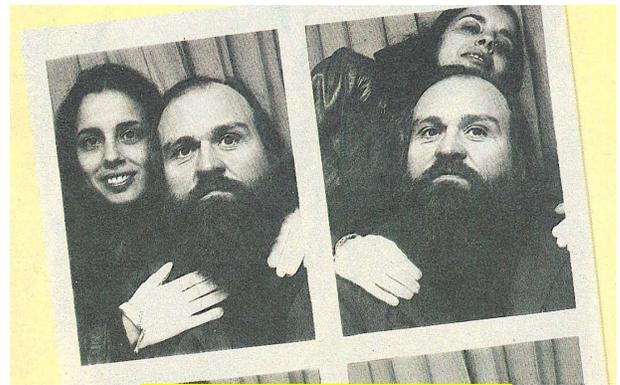
composed for and performed by Scott Graff



the building - the fall from the 34th floor



Carl Andre with his work, circa 1980



Carl Andre & Ana Mendieta, circa 1980

composed as a reply to the composer's motet
Kyrie - Mercy - Ana M

Cuban-born Ana Mendieta produced work in which she used her own body as a medium, seeking to establish a "dialog between the landscape and the female body's return to the maternal source." Between 1973 and 1980 Mendieta created her signature series entitled "Silueta" or silhouette, using her body or images of her body in combination with natural materials. The pieces were transient, created and then photographed just before or during their destruction. In one work from the "Silueta" series, she outlined her figure with gunpowder, then set it alight, incorporating the ritualistic use of fire as a source of exorcism and purification. In her "Tree of Life" series, she covered her naked body with mud and posed against an enormous tree. Ridding herself of her color and form, she is visually united with the tree, arms raised in supplication.

Ana's husband was Carl Andre, a successful and well-known artist and sculptor. In the early morning hours of September 8, 1985 when she was 36, she somehow "went out of the window," (Andre's phrase during his 911 call) of their 34th-floor Greenwich Village apartment. Ana may have committed suicide, as Mr. Andre claimed, or he may have pushed her (she weighed only 93 pounds compared to his 175). There were no eyewitnesses. A doorman in the street below had heard a woman screaming 'No, no, no, no,' then the explosive thud of her body landing on the roof of an all-night delicatessen. The bedroom from which she plunged was in disarray, Mr. Andre had what appeared to be fresh scratches on his nose and forearm, and his story to the police differed from his recorded statements to the 911 operator an hour or so earlier. Andre was arrested and indicted for her murder and, after a trial that in some ways tore the New York art world apart, he was acquitted in 1988. Since remarried, Andre lived in the same apartment in Greenwich Village until his death in 2024.





CARL'S REPLY was composed for chromelodeon, a microtonal Harry Partch instrument, the octave divided into approximately 36 steps. The instrument itself, seen below, a pump organ from 1910 or so retuned to be microtonal, was lent to me by John Schneider, director of the Los Angeles Partch Ensemble. **CARL'S REPLY** will be rescored to include more Partch instruments etc for an upcoming concert premiere with the Partch Ensemble.

On receiving the instrument, I composed 3-4 short chorale fragments, learning the instrument, and notated them “traditionally” so to speak, in pencil. I then recorded them, imported them into pro-tools, and then manipulated them further, combining them to be multi-layered, all adding up to the accompaniment that became **CARL'S REPLY**. There was no way for me to accurately notate how that evolved, so for now that's why accompaniment staves in the score are empty - my thanks to John Schneider and to Harry Partch too, for the great inspiration -



*for more information, please see:
<https://www.thewebopera.com/ana-m>*

Carl's Reply

LANDSCAPE - 1
1a-Carl - 3/2/24

I groan like a guilty man

1 $\text{♩} = 80$

In - ge - mis - co tam - quan re - us re -

*when from the ashes shall arise
the guilty man to be judged* Qua re - sur - get ex fa - - - vil - la

Qua re - sur - get ex fa - vil - la Ju - di - can - dus ho - mo re -

8 **Guilt reddens my face**

us in - ge - mis - co tam - quan re - us Cul - pa ru - bet vul -

Ju - - - di - can - dus ho - mo re - us La - chri - mo - sa Qua re - sur - - - get

us La - chri - mo - sa Qua re - sur - get ex fa - vil - la

14

tus me - us me - us I groan I

ex fa - - - vil - la Ju - - - di - can - dus ho - mo re - us La - chri - mo - sa

Ju - di - can - dus ho - mo re - us La - chri - mo - sa La - chri - mo - sa Di - es

2

20 21 22 23 24 25
groan like a guil - ty like a guil - ty man La (ah)

La - - - chri - mo - sa Di - es i - - - - li - a Qua re - sur - get

i - - - li - a Qua re - sur - get ex fa - vil - la

20 21 22 23 24 25

MOURNFUL ...

26 27 28 29 30 31
La - - - chri - mo - (o) - - - sa The

ex fa - - - vil - la Ju - - - di - can - dus ho - mo re - us La - chri - mo - sa

26 27 28 29 30 31
Ju - di - can - dus ho - mo re - us La - chri - mo - sa Qua re - sur - get ex

26 27 28 29 30 31

32 33 34 35 36 37
night the sky the win - dow sill Win - dow sill win - dow sill

Qua re - sur - get ex fa - - - vil - la Ju - - - di - can - dus ho -

fa - vil - la Ju - di - can - dus ho - mo re - us La - chri - mo - sa

32 33 34 35 36 37

nothing will remain unavenged

LANDSCAPE - 3
1a-Carl - 3/2/24

38 39 40 41 42 43

No-thing will No-thing will Nil in-ul-tum re-ma - ne-bit No-thing

di - can - dus ho - mo re-us La - mo re-us La - chri-mo - sa La - - - chri-mo-sa Di -

mo - sa La - - - chri - La - - - chri - mo - sa Di - es i - - - li - a

38 39 40 41 42 43

Spare a suppliant O God!

44 45 46 47 48 49 50

will re-main Fire and flame All the same Sup-pli-can-ti

es i - - - li - a Qua re - sur - get ex fa - - - vil - la Ju - - - -

Qua re - sur - get ex fa - vil - la Ju - di - can-dus ho-mo re-us La - chri-

44 45 46 47 48 49 50

51 52 53 54 55 56

Sup-pli-can - ti par-ce De - - - us. Sup-pli-can - ti Face down in a

di - can - dus ho - mo re-us La - chri-mo - sa Qua re - sur - get ex fa - - -

mo - sa Qua re - sur - get ex fa - - - vil - la Ju - di -

51 52 53 54 55 56

57

war-ming well Face Down, How grace, Grace - ful - ly She fell - - - (l) She

vil - la Ju - - - di - can - dus ho - mo re - us La - chri - mo - sa La - - -

can - dus ho - mo re - us La - chri - mo - sa La - chri - mo - sa Di - es i - - - li -

58 59 60 61 62

57

63

fell The night the sky the win - dow sill The night the sky and no - thing will

chri - mo - sa Di - es i - - - - li - a Qua re - sur - get ex fa - - -

a Qua re - sur - get ex fa - vil - la Ju - - di -

64 65 66 67 68

63

69

Di - es I - rae Re - main

vil - la Ju - - - di - can - dus

can - dus ho - mo re - us La - chri - mo - sa La - chri - mo - sa Di - es i - li - a

70 71 72 73 74 75

69