

# Réminiscence / The Andante

TENSO: Two Workshop Fragments

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Sarah Lianne Lewis

2016

# Réminiscence / The Andante

TENSO: Two Workshop Fragments  
for unaccompanied SMATBB choir

## Instrumentation

Soprano  
Mezzo-Soprano  
Alto  
Tenor  
Baritone  
Bass

## Programme Note

With these two fragments, I have attempted to convey the bleakness of the constant rain and mud in the First World War trenches; the first fragment focusses on the repetitive nature of the weather, and unravelling morale of the soldiers, whereas the shorter second fragment presents a more uplifting moment - a distant memory of pre-war days.

The text is taken from a poem titled 'Réminiscence' by the little-known French war poet Albert-Paul Granier (The poem is titled 'The Andante' in Ian Higgins' English translation). The depictions of the bleak and grey landscape by Granier contrasts with his vivid memories of golden Sunday afternoons spent listening to an orchestral concert.

Albert-Paul Granier was born in 1888 in Brittany, France. He was a talented sportsman, musician and poet. From 1911 to 1913, he was required by compulsory national service to serve in the army, where he trained as an artillery officer. He was recalled to the army in August 1914 and served on the Western Front. He became an airborne artillery observer and was shot down and killed over the battlefields of Verdun on 17 August 1917.

Granier's volume of war poetry, *Les Coqs et les Vautours*, was published in Paris in 1918, before falling into obscurity for almost 90 years, until a copy of the book was discovered at a jumble sale in France, and then translated by Ian Higgins.

Sarah Lianne Lewis

## Réminiscence

La pluie s'effile au long du temps,  
la pluie bêche la boue au long du jour maussade,  
la pluie sanglote longuement en accords mous,  
et le vent chuchoteur effrite les nuages...

Pourquoi, ce soir, me hante  
le majestueux andante  
de la septième symphonie?

Ses accords simples et magnifiques,  
comme des arcs de triomphe anciens,  
m'envoûtent de leur charme vaste.

Son harmonie ronronne à mon âme,  
veloute son glissement souple  
de mélancolique promenade  
sur la berge d'un canal.

Il pleut sans fin...

La boue serpente en longs ruisseaux d'agate  
et d'onyx nuageux, que mon cheval  
crève à longs coups de ses sabots agus.

Il pleut sans fin au long du jour bleuâtre.

L'andante doux apaise ma rancœur  
de sa sérénité divine...

Ô les dimanches de l'autre année,  
les dimanches après-midi,  
c'était, dans la clarté de lampes,  
l'orchestre immense, unanimant son âme  
à la pointe de archets légers.  
Le fluide miraculeux  
s'éparpillait vers les balcons  
et neigeait sur les âmes à nu,  
comme un reflet de vitrail au printemps  
sur un voile de communiant.

L'andante,  
l'andante est doux et triste un peu  
comme un soir d'automne sur les étangs;  
il est céleste comme un chant d'orgue,  
et mon âme chrysalide  
se tisse un cocon merveilleux  
de sa béatitude endolorie,

sur la trame de soie violette de la pluie.

Albert-Paul Granier (1888-1917)  
Route de Chauvencourt, 1915

## The Andante

The rain, endlessly unravelling;  
the rain, shovelling at the mud the whole sullen day;  
the rain, unendingly sobbing its toneless chords;  
and the whispering wind, crumbling the cloud into drizzle...

Why, this evening, am I haunted so  
by that majestic andante  
from the Seventh Symphony?

Its chords, as magnificently simple  
as the triumphal arches of the ancients,  
hold me in a vast enchantment.

Its harmony is velvet to my soul,  
its murmur a caress that soothes  
the melancholy as we pick our way  
along the bank of this canal.

The rain has never stopped...

The mud is all long, snaking rivulets of agate  
and clouded onyx, chopped into splashes  
with every drawn-out hoof-fall of my horse.

The rain has never stopped, the whole lead-blue day.

The andante  
gently eases my resentment  
with its divine serenity...

Ah, those Sundays, not two years ago —  
the Sunday afternoons,  
the lamp-lit hall,  
the huge orchestra a single mind and spirit  
in every flying bow-tip:

The miraculous fluid  
a fountain spreading up to the galleries, then  
falling like snowflakes onto souls laid bare,  
like springtime sunlight through stained glass  
on a girl's communion veil.

The andante,  
the andante is gentle, with a touch of sadness,  
like an autumn evening over ponds,  
or the voix céleste of an organ;  
and my chrysalid soul  
weaves itself a wonderful cocoon  
from this aching blessedness,  
on the purple silk weft of the rain.

Paul Granier,  
Chauvencourt Road. 1915  
Translated by Ian Higgins (2014)

# Réminiscence / The Andante

TENSO Workshop Nov 2016: Fragment 1

Sarah Lianne Lewis (2016)  
after *Réminiscence* by Albert-Paul Granier (1888-1917)  
Translation by Ian Higgins

Muddy, slowly unravelling, without becoming dirge-like ♩ = 72

*pp*

Sopranos

Mezzo-Sopranos

Altos

Tenors

Baritone

Basses

The rain, the rain, the rain, has ne - ver...  
Il pleut, il pleut, sans fin... \_

The rain, the rain, the rain, has ne - ver...  
La pluie, la pluie, s'ef - file au long du temps...

The rain, the rain...  
La pluie, la pluie...

The rain, sans fin... The rain has ne - ver...  
Il pleut sans fin... Il pleut sans fin...

The rain... rain...  
Il pleut sans fin...

5

S.

M-S.

A.

T.

Bar.

B.

rain... end - less - ly, sho - vel - ling at the mud...  
pluie bêche la boue au long du jour maus - sade...

...end - less - ly un - ra - vel - ling... Sho - vel - ling at the  
...bêche la boue au long du jour... long du jour maus

**A**

10

S. the rain... the whole sul-len day;  
La pluie... du jour maus-sade,

M-S. *p* The rain...  
La pluie...

A. *p*

T. The rain...  
La pluie...

Bar. *p*

B. mud... the whole sul-len day.  
- sade... du jour maus - sade.

15 *pp* half pitched, repeat ad. lib.

S. ...the rain, the rain, the rain...  
...la pluie, la pluie, la pluie...

M-S. *mp* *p* *mf* gliss.  
The rain...  
La pluie...

A. *p* *mf*  
The rain...  
La pluie...

T. *mp* *p* *mf*  
The rain...  
La pluie...

Bar. *p* *mf* gliss.  
The rain...  
La pluie...

B. *p* *pp* *mf*  
...the rain...  
La pluie... ...la

19

S.

M-S. un - end - ing - ly sob - bing its tone - less chords;  
san - glo - te long - eu - ment en ac - cords mous,

A. un - end - ing - ly sob - bing its tone - less chords;  
san - glo - te long - eu - ment en ac - cords mous,

T. un - end - ing - ly sob - bing its tone - less chords;

Bar. *pp* half pitched, repeat ad. lib.  
...the rain, the rain, the rain, the rain...  
...la pluie, la pluie, la pluie, la pluie...

B. rain... pluie...  
...la pluie...

22

S.

M-S.

A. ...whis - per - ing wind... ...the cloud  
...le vent chu - cho - teur... ef - frite.

T. ...whis - per - ing wind... crumb - ling  
...le vent chu - cho - teur... ef - frite.

Bar. ...the whis - per - ing wind... crumb - ling the  
le vent chu - cho - teur... ef - frite les.

B. and the whis - per - ing wind... ...the  
et le vent chu - cho - teur... ...les

**B**

26

S. *pp* *mf* *p* *mp*  
 Why this eve-ning, am I haunt - ed  
 Pour - quoi ce soir, me - han -

M-S. *pp* *mf* *p* *mp*  
 Why this eve-ning, am I haunt - ed  
 Pour - quoi ce soir, me - han -

A. *pp* *p*  
 in - to driz - zle... mmm...  
 les - nu - ages...

T. *pp* *p*  
 the cloud in - to driz - zle... mmm...  
 les nu - ages.

Bar. *mp* *pp* *pp* *p*  
 cloud nu - ages... mmm...  
*gliss.* *gliss.*

B. *mp* *pp* *pp* *p*  
 cloud nu - ages... mmm...  
*gliss.* *gliss.*

31

S. *mf* *p*  
 so, by that ma - - jes - tic an - dan - te...  
 -te le ma - - jes - tueux an - dan - te...

M-S. *mf* *p*  
 so, by that ma - - jes - tic an - dan - te...  
 te le ma - - jes - tueux an - dan - te...

A. *mp*  
 ...ma - jes - - tic an - dan - te from the  
 ...ma - jes - - tueux an - dan - te de la

T. *mp*  
 ...ma - jes - - tic an - dan - te from the  
 ...ma - jes - - tueux an - dan - te de la

Bar. *mp*  
 ...ma - jes - - tic an - dan - te from the  
 ...ma - jes - - tueux an - dan - te de la

B. *mp*  
 ...ma - jes - - tic an - dan - te...  
 ...ma - jes - - tueux an - dan - te...

36

S. *mf* *f*  
 ...Sev - enth Sym - pho - ny?  
 Sep - ti - ème Sym - pho - nie?

M-S. *mf* *f*  
 ...Sev - enth Sym - pho - ny?  
 Sep - ti - ème Sym - pho - nie?

A. *mf* *f*  
 Sev - - - enth Sym - pho - ny?  
 Sep - - - ti - ème Sym - pho - nie?

T. *mf* *f*  
 Sev - - - enth Sym - pho - ny?  
 Sep - - - ti - ème Sym - pho - nie?

Bar. *mf* *f*  
 Sev - - - - enth Sym - pho - ny?  
 Sep - - - - ti - ème Sym - pho - nie?

B. *mf* *f*  
 ...Sev - - - - enth Sym - pho - ny?  
 Sep - - - - ti - ème Sym - pho - nie?

40 **C** *pp* half pitched, repeat ad. lib.

S. *pp* repeat ad lib.  
 ...the rain, the rain, the rain...  
 ...La pluie, la pluie, la pluie...

M-S. *pp* repeat ad lib.  
 The rain, end- less - ly un - ra - vel- ling...  
 La pluie, s'ef - file au long du temps... \_\_\_\_\_

A. *pp* repeat ad lib.  
 The rain, \_\_\_\_\_ the rain, the rain, has ne- ver stopped..  
 La pluie, \_\_\_\_\_ la pluie, il pleut sans fin... \_\_\_\_\_

T. *pp* repeat ad lib. *gliss.*  
 The rain, \_\_\_\_\_ the rain...  
 La pluie... \_\_\_\_\_ la pluie...

Bar. *pp* half pitched, repeat ad. lib.  
 ...the rain, the rain, the rain...the rain...  
 ...La pluie, la pluie, la pluie, la pluie...

B. *pp* repeat ad lib. *gliss.* 3  
 The rain, \_\_\_\_\_ un - end - ing - ly sob- bing...  
 La pluie \_\_\_\_\_ s'ef - file au long du temps,

44 *half pitched, repeat ad. lib.*

S. *mp* *pp* *mp*

M-S. *repeat ad lib.* *mp*

A. *repeat ad lib.* *mp* *pp* *mp*

T. *repeat ad lib.* *mp* *pp* *mp*

Bar. *half pitched, repeat ad. lib.* *mp* *pp* *mp*

B. *repeat ad lib.* *mp*

# Réminiscence / The Andante

TENSO Workshop Nov 2016: Fragment 2

Sarah Lianne Lewis (2016)  
after *Réminiscence* by Albert-Paul Granier (1888-1917)  
Translation by Ian Higgins

With a certain sense of triumph ♩ = 72

*mp* *f* *mf*

S. *mp* *f* *mf*

M-S. *mp* *f* *mf*

A. *mp* *f* *mf*

T. *mp* *f* *p*

Bar. *mp* *f* *p*

B. *mp* *f* *p*

And my chry - sa - lid soul weaves it - self a won - -  
 ...et mon â - me chry - sa - lide se tisse un co - con

6 *f*

S. *f*

M-S. *f*

A. *f* *gliss.*

T.

Bar.

B.

- der-ful co - coon from this ach - ing bless - - ed - ness,  
 mer - veil - leux de sa bé - a - ti - tude en - do - lo - rie,

11 *pp*

S. *pp*

M-S. *pp*

A. *pp*

T. *p* *mp* 3

Bar. *p* *mp*

B. *p* *mp* 3 3

...on the pur - - ple silk weft of the rain,  
 ...sur la trame de soie vi - o - lette de la pluie,

...on the pur - - ple silk weft of the  
 ...sur la trame de soie vi - o - lette de la

...on the pur - - ple silk weft of the rain,  
 ...sur la trame de soie vi - o - lette de la pluie,

16 *repeat until barely audible*

S. *repeat until barely audible*

M-S. *repeat until barely audible*

A. *gliss.* *repeat until barely audible*

T. *gliss.* *repeat until barely audible*

Bar. *repeat until barely audible*

B. *repeat until barely audible*

of the rain, rain, rain...  
 de la pluie, pluie, pluie...

...the rain, rain, rain...  
 ...la pluie, pluie, pluie...

...the rain...  
 ...la pluie...

...the rain...  
 ...la pluie...

...rain, rain, rain, rain...  
 ...pluie, pluie, pluie, pluie...

...the rain...  
 ...la pluie...

