

Glossary

a cappella – without instrumental accompaniment

Arpeggiate – play a chord as a series of ascending or descending notes

Chordal - play, sing, or arrange notes in chords

Chords – a group of (typically three or more) notes sounded together, as a basis of harmony

Dissonance - lack of harmony among musical notes

Immerse – involve oneself deeply in a particular activity or interest

Interpret – perform (a dramatic role or piece of music) in a particular way that conveys one's understanding of the creator's ideas.

Interval – the difference in pitch between two musical sounds.

Lyrics – the words of a song

Mindfulness – a mental state achieved by focusing one's awareness on the present moment, while calmly acknowledging and accepting one's feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations.

Musical cell - small rhythmic and melodic design that can be isolated, or can make up one part of a thematic context, often repeated as a motif.

Text setting - the process of aligning syllables of speech to specific musical pitches

Tonal – relating to music written using conventional keys and harmony.

Lyrics

Ooh Ooh

Ooh Ooh

I look for you in the dark, look with my hands deep in your heart.

Your light feels dim, reflecting my thinness.

Drawing from a well, no deeper than myself,

Hands spread out like flowers, flowers, turning to the window, while planted in the shadow.

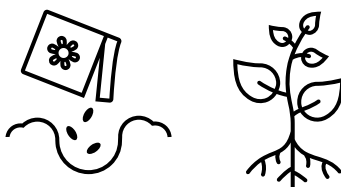
I look for daylight in the darkness of your eyes.

Even as we hold to each other let our roots spread far beyond us, drawing the daylight, draw into our intertwined limbs.

Daylight.

Daylight.

Ooh



Listen

Immerse Yourself

New Soil is a very personal and contemplative piece of music. Composed as an “introspective exploration of what it means to find our own life-giving sources,” *New Soil* is written for solo voice and uses text written by the composer. What do you need to do so that you can immerse yourself in the music while listening?

Dig Deeper

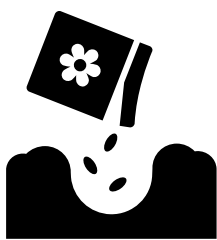
Harmony and Cells

The composer describes her harmonic language as tonal and chordal. Because the human voice can make only one sound at a time, in order to convey chord structures, the singer arpeggiates chords. The distinction between arpeggios and melodic lines is not always clear. This piece uses repeating musical cells with small adjustments to build intensity and create an incantation of sorts.

Create and Make

Lyric Writing

The composer of this piece wrote not only the music, but also the lyrics. The lyrics describe a very intimate relationship with botanical imagery. The lyrics by themselves are very beautiful, but they become even more poignant when set to music. Try writing your own lyrics.



Listen

Immerse Yourself

Because this piece is for solo voice, it may be easier to focus in on the singular sound of the singer. However, you still might find your mind drifting, which is ok! As you listen to the piece, see if you can get rid of distractions around you. Find a quiet, dark room. Turn off your phone. Get comfortable. Does that make it easier to listen intently? Your brain will continue to make and have thoughts but see if you can let them go quickly by bringing your attention back to the solo voice. This is a form of mindfulness meditation.

Dig Deeper

Harmony and Cells

The primary melodic device is a cell of four notes. Occasionally, a fifth note is added for intensity, for an extra syllable, and/or to connect to phrases. The secondary melodic device is a cell that counters the first one by primarily descending whereas the primary cell descends first and then ascends for two notes. There are some modifications of both cells as the composer moves through the piece and incorporates dynamic changes. Can you identify these two cells? Do they give the lyrics different characteristics? What words would you use to describe the harmony of these cells?

Create and Make

Lyric Writing

Lyrics often tell stories or express emotions and thoughts like those in *New Soil*. Try writing your own lyrics that tell a story that is meaningful to you or that express emotions you have. You can use imagery, like Timbre does, to help come up with interesting language. You can also try setting up a structure in advance. Timbre doesn't use the traditional form of verse and chorus, but she does have a structure that helps organize the lyrics. For instance, the piece begins and ends with "Oohs." She also occasionally repeats words for emphasis. Once you have your lyrics, see if you can add a melody just by singing. Or maybe you want to give them to a composer who can write music to go with the lyrics.

