

Notes on “Mother Night”

Performed for the “Double Dialogues” Conference
Theatreworks, Deakin University - November 1996
Elissa Goodrich

Composer & Lyrics:	Elissa Goodrich
Voice:	Karen Berger
Vocals:	Di Clark
Harp:	Di Peters
Bass:	John O’Hagan (originally scored for Cello)
Percussion:	Elissa Goodrich

The work comprises two parts. The first uses an excerpt from Aeschylus’ trilogy, the **Oresteia**, and, more particularly, the chorus of the **Eumenides**. Here, the Furies (Karen Berger) lament the passing of their ancient earth-bound power. The use of text with drums was inspired by Graeme Leake’s “And Now for the News...”

The second section is a response to the play, exploring themes of light and darkness: the exchange of powers from the Mother Earth -- chaos, fury, and vengeance -- to Zeus, symbolised by sky or air, where justice and detachment succeed....to a degree.