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Power of Spikes

text for libretto *Tesla*

musical creation by Hervé Birolini and François Donato, Cie Distorsions, 2022

transcription based on live performance at La muse en Circuit, 2022 and CD Distorsions Studio
translated from French by Adelaïde Pralon

voice

electricity
power
energy
mechanism
remote action
imitation
hydrodynamics
attraction
electrodynamics
hertz
wave
repulsion
alternating magnetic field
line of force
entrainment of light
ponderable matter
optics
refractive index
actino-electric phenomena
circuit
dielectric strips
steady state current
flow direction
static electrification
solar light
atmosphere
cloud altitude
secular variation
lightning

I can't forget this vibration that chimes in my body

the current that circulates in the switchboard
the circuit breakers
the plugs
the cables

the lamps and the household appliances
produced at one point on the chain
where one of the elements stops functioning and one of the connexions is bare
weakening the transport
a tremor in its activity that is heard from up close
and spreads into the air
electrifying the surrounding area

the background noise that carries the voice
the breath I feel in the silence between sentences
and that feeds off the piles of interference from the phone line
speaks to me of the distance
and gives shape to the vast space between us

in the head
as in the dream
denuclearized

in wriggling circulation
I drag and convey the passing of time

I scatter
weightless

I supervise contacts
and free myself from fields of influence

cooped up in my laboratory
gripped by the voltage
ageless
unsure

the future
under my nerves
within earshot

I instruct, throw and gush lightnings

a arc
two arcs
and another

I add
I mix

what comes smashes frequencies
from the North tip to the South tip
bounces back in reciprocity
paralyses its surroundings
and summons something immeasurable in the distance

twenty-four
three hundred and seventy-eight

I audition the great faraway
the extreme
the extreme frame

in boundless
leaden fallout

I scatter the raw tension
into satellites
shimmering
into shattered rain
into broken constancy
radiant
night and day

night and day
I transfer
I visualise

I see the lightning
the lighting
the flattened rhythm of hindered connexions

I drink in the wound of material dispute
competitive

I edit defiance
to the line of soft disjunction

I polarize
inhale the signal
blink

open an eye
close it again
open

seven thousand five hundred and thirteen

in the heart of an inverted pyramid
sleepy angles
I wander

I listen to the horizontal panic
overwhelmed
forever free
forever cyclical

forever free
forever cyclical
the new figure
the new sign
of a toggling cylinder

and the skin crumbles
crushes the end of the vocal tissue
not rash
an echo to the curvaceous springs
the bursting into whispers

shielded from the workbench
the voice alone
mental traveller

if not the required exhalation
that sneaks in as a complex mass
as a rising snow

without making a sound a swirl a trap
without ridge
or dome

without making a sound a swirl a trap
I can feel the fence losing
abdication

I prick up my ears
hear the system dissolving

I see the frightened chord accepting the vacuum
dull
stoneless

I rejoice under the sky
synchronous
manifold

I add one
subtract seven

I see the colour
the fragmented noise
magnetic

today the future
everything lights up

the dots join up
the bonds form
words rise up in the air

the anachronistic day
electric

everywhere at once
without ups and downs

resonating

in my skull
reality, digit and voice

Earth's magnetic field
lightning conductor
steam
battery
osmotic balance
elasticity
pyromagnetic machine
permeability
recalescence
transformer
alternating current
electrolytical electrometallurgical cell
switch
motive power
drill
triple extension
condensation
generator
dynamo
divided excitation
reversal
busbar
canalization
interlocking
blade
fuse
keylock switch
ammeter
flow
voltmeter
incandescent light
tower
battery
shunt
multitubular regulator
cylinder pressure
alternator
turbo
trigger
generating force
turbo
trigger
expansion valve

partly movable
disorganised
supply frequency

burned-out plastic
twisted
crushed

I challenge the dialled number

whole
smutty
polished

worn down
broken
defeated

yet again rid of its tangible functions

clipped and then enlarged
I declare the damage

not pacified either nor ever silent

strong
flat
neutral
bland

fluid
overripe
raw
dry

dotted with dark flashes
blown out of all proportion

sanded up
cosseted

the impoverished snow
frequently assailed
yet soft
shunted
scattered
enrolled nervousness

acknowledged under the strain but never caught out

I listen
I note

I make a carpet out of it
a disciplinary pattern
a gripped cable

unwoven
tears on the side
with oppressive ribs
set off by a speed trap

stunned
contentious
I follow the sequence
a carrier apart

each grain
point
trait
an aggravating factor

line
curve
wave

sphere
tank
hollow

thrown to the wall
in the rebound shop

I welcome the consequence

increased hairiness
deserted supply area
unfrequented

I fray the loose change
meagre
scarce

its temperamental engine
moving off arbitrarily
the whole apartment under its thumb
and the violence in the micro-tetany of the surrounding humming vibration
establishing itself as metronome

the waves that bounce off the walls
and are propagated in the other rooms
slyly Invading the space

the abrupt stops that bang on the floor
and suddenly lower the domestic power

the little wheel goes wild inside the electric meter

the worry about a future bill takes on the ultra-high-pitched tone
of a mini circular saw
that spreads beyond the hall

electricity looms
power smiles at us
when energy comes crawling slowly

the mechanism gives in to the highest bidder
the action stands out from a distance

but the convection?

imitation doesn't look like my mother
attraction runs away
and movement learns the game

the wave reflects

the repulsion gets ready
the magnetic field is unfazed

motive power again?

the phenomenon tires
then the circuit corrects
the blade wonders after all
if the steady state current might not be able to
dot the output

the direction of flux settles in
the static charging does the same

when the solar light excuses itself
the atmosphere answers
and the electrode moves on

of the drum type
or the disc type

it is the altitude of the coiling clouds
it is the secular variation

if Earth's magnetic field strides along towards a decision
lightning accepts itself
and the conductor plummets

if the accumulator runs out
the ebonite goes off-colour
or the more turbulent turbine
parodies the zigzag

commutator aside
is it the triple extension?

plead divided excitation
or the busbar

it is not the angular velocity
it is not the cylinder pressure
but the keylock switch

be it the drill
or the transformer
they present in front of them
a possible inversion
condensed

here comes the root of nodes and waves

the homostatic method
or the idiostatic method

the interlock decides

the wounded direct current
alternating
half disruptive
consider shutting up

then shuts off