Chapter 5: Disabling Soundwriting: Sonic Rhetorics Meet Disability Pedagogy

By Chad Iwertz Duffy, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA

4. "Virginia Woolf as an EDM Song" by Kristen Cerne

Kristen Cerne explores vocal manipulation tools to convey a new take on a classic poem.

Transcript

Clear, distant voice: And then the body, who had been silent up to now began its song almost at first as low as the rush of the wheels

[*Drum beat begins*]

Deep voice: Eggs and bacon toast and tea

High-pitched voice: And red currant jelly

Deep voice: Eggs and bacon toast and tea

Clear voice with slight echo: With coffee to follow with coffee to follow

[*second drum beat is added*]

Fuzzy voice: Fire and a bath fire and a bath

Deep voice: Eggs and bacon toast and tea

High-pitched voice: And red currant jelly

Fuzzy voice: Fire and a bath Fire and a bath

High-pitched voice: And red currant jelly

Deep voice: Eggs and bacon toast and tea

Echoed voice: And then to bed

[*both drum beats end*]

Clear, distant voice: And the rest of the journey was performed in the delicious society of my own body.

Kristen Cerne's Artist Statement

For this piece, I used a paragraph from Virginia Woolf's *Evening Over Sussex*. I wanted to create a piece that translated and heightened the meaning of the original paragraph. The original paragraph conveys a meaning of confusion and disjointedness. I translated this meaning into a song by reading parts and filtering them with different voices. My favorite part of *Evening over Sussex* is when Woolf starts randomly listing things. I have always thought that this part had a musical rhythm to it. So, using GarageBand, I made a song out of the parts that I thought had a nice rhythm to them. For purposes of flow, and so that the song had a story to it, I begin the song with the first sentence being read with no other noise like it is coming out of the story. I also end the song with the last sentence and no noise as well like we are going back to the story. I want this piece to symbolize the craziness and disjointedness of life. However, I also want to show how this craziness can make sense and how it can all fit together.