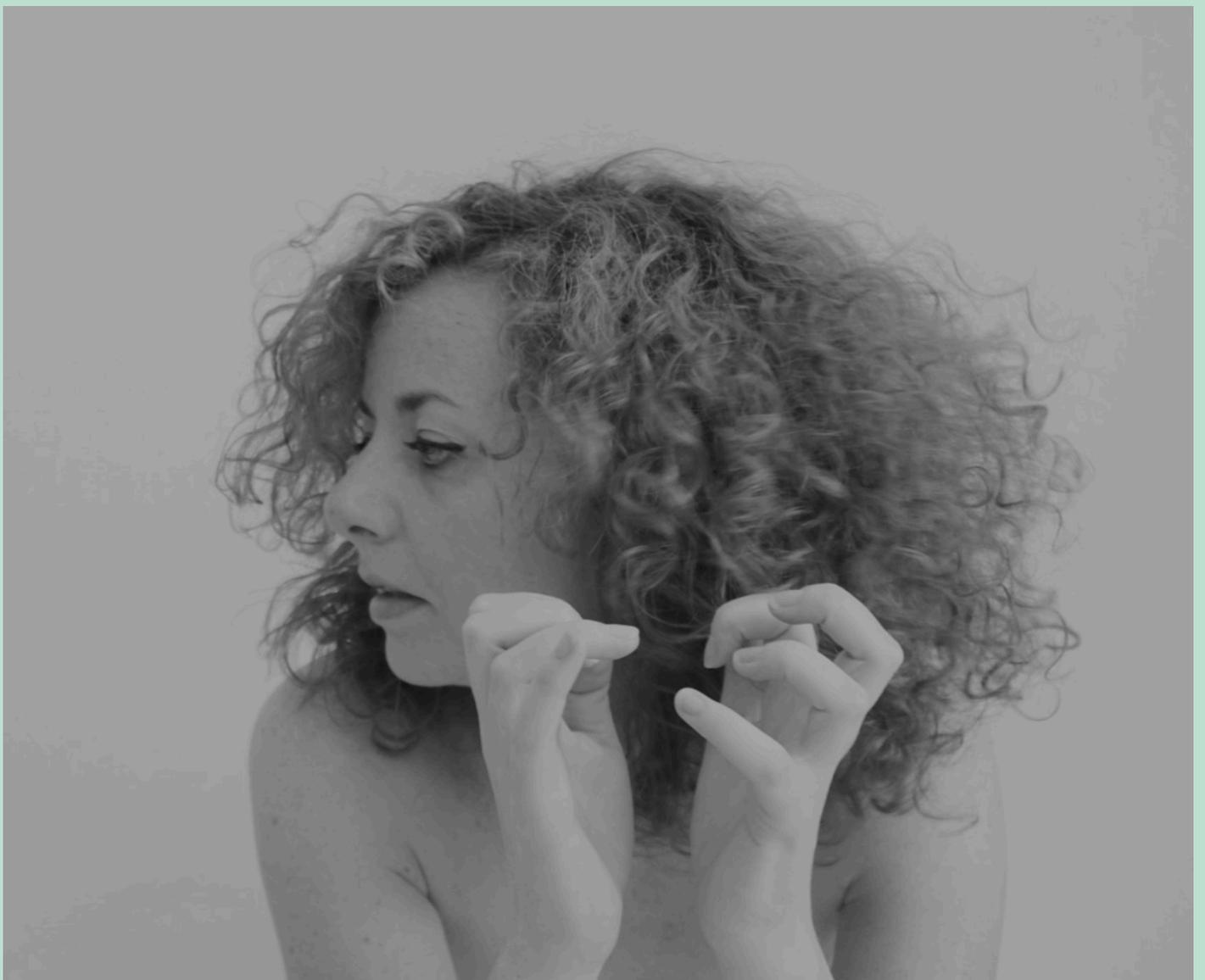


Ecolalìe

by Felicità Brusoni

Soprano



Echolalia is a psychiatric symptom that consists in the mechanical and stereotyped repetition - as an echo - of words or phrases pronounced by other people or by the subject himself (autoecholalia). From the pathological point of view, the repetition of verbal expressions is observed mainly in schizophrenia, autism and Tourette's syndrome.

The echolalias of Redion, a child with autism that I was caring while teaching, were like a red thread along a path to me. Following it without a clear intention, alienated but fascinated and seduced at the same time, was one of the most engaging adventures of my life. My rational part made an effort to understand, analyze, contextualize and label it. How was all this creativity possible within a split mind? What world could be hidden beyond those sounds? How much naturalness was there in its aesthetic realization?

I soon realized that Redion's process of juxtaposition echolalias and sounds followed a typical process of any composers, once again instinctive, just as the production of the sounds themselves was instinctive, not attributable to a rational or learned scheme.

I wondered if Redion could be considered a budding composer, a vocal experimenter like Demetrio Stratos, or a vocal improviser like Bobby McFerrin.

Then I remembered that he is a child who attends middle school with such a serious pathology that he is constantly monitored by tutors and educators and most likely, once the school period ends, his destiny will sadly lead him to cross the threshold of a mental health institute, due to its aggressiveness given by behavioral disorders.

For the artistic world, and especially for the musical world in this specific case, the fact of not being able to take advantage of the sound creations of Redion represents a loss. Unknowingly Redion gives us something that has an autonomous artistic and expressive value, which must remain free from the concept of sanity, of mental "normality".

After all, what expectations of artistic expressiveness should the concept of normality correspond to?

This personal episode led me to think that my contribution as a musician could sensitize the public towards those people with a strong artistic component who, like Redion, are instead labeled as "not normal" and therefore ignored; it could offer them the possibility of externalizing their "voice".

With this idea in mind, I involved 5 composers asking them to write pieces for voice and electronics, and I provided as the only indication, to reflect on what each of them considers "mental normality". The result was 5 completely different songs, 5 different interpretations of mental illness, of madness, of what frightens us most as it belongs to the abyss of the unconscious.

A way to question ourselves as human beings and reflect on the loss of "artistic souls", which for years have been buried behind the wards of psychiatric hospitals, mental health centers, hospitals.

Composers and Songs



Antonio Agostini

*"...dopo la sua seconda apparizione prende
sembianze umane..."*

Primo studio per l'opera "Nanof"

2019-2020

Domenico De Simone

Antitesi

2014

Andrea Nicoli

Sempri 'cca sugnu

2020

Silvia Pepe

The Giant Canary

2020

Massimiliano Viel

Tre canti di una luna strafottente

2020

Performance Requirements

- possibility of having darkness in the room
- possibility of using the electricity network
- n. 2 speakers
- n. 1 mixer with at least 4 channels
- n. 1 TV or screen or equipment to project a movie with sound
- a table, even small
- a chair
- lights

