CHILDREN, HAVE YE ANY MEAT?

three voices and three environments

Robert Blatt
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The score consists of text derived from The Soliloquies of Saint Augustine arranged into three columns:

Vocalist one sings from the left column.
Vocalist two sings from the center column.
Vocalist three sings from the right column.

Each word is softly sung on one breath, with each syllable lasting an equal length within the breath.

The vocalists start at the top of their column, working their way to the bottom, one word at a time:

Vocalist one begins.
Vocalist two begins halfway through vocalist one's breath and matching vocalist one's pitch.
Vocalist three begins when vocalist one stops and matching vocalist two's pitch.
Vocalist one begins when vocalist two stops and matching vocalist three's pitch.
Vocalist two begins when vocalist three stops and matching vocalist one's pitch.

These last three lines are repeated until a gap in the text is encountered, representing a long stretch of silence.
The vocalists then continue from where they left off but now sing a minor third higher.

The score is performed three times in total.
Each performance occurs in a different environment.
For each subsequent performance, the starting pitch is a major third higher.
The vocalists and audience, if any, walk together between each environment in silence.

Robert Blatt, 2011/14
power has to eyes light, three
of not turn to unless things
vision force the the these abide

faith whereby the soul believes thing to is
very thing she is
turn her gaze is
sort, seen
such gazed will give
being

the hope whereby judges
mind she
if she

looks attentively

will see

whereby she desires

the to see

to be filled

with enjoyment

of sight

charity

the attentive view

is now followed

by very

vision god