ENGLISH DANCING MASTER



LEO CHADBURN / PHAEDRA ENSEMBLE

The words and music are by **Leo Chadburn**.

Commissioned and performed by **Phaedra Ensemble**:

Phillip Granell violin
Zahra Benyounes violin
Miguel Sobrinho viola
Sergio Serra cello

with **Leo Chadburn** voice

Produced and mixed by **Jamie Hamilton** with **Leo Chadburn**
Mastered by **Katie Tavini**
Recorded onboard Lightship 95, London, 2024
The watercolours are also by Leo.

The release of *English Dancing Master* was kindly supported by
the **Hinrichsen Foundation** and the **Vaughan Williams Foundation**.



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The dancing that we do with our bodies; the dancing that we do with our minds.
Kinetic expression, free association.

Like a ruptured radio documentary, a voice conjures a string quartet.
Twenty fragmentary scenarios move through place and time.

Dancing as political act; dancing as cathartic release.

Thank you for listening.

Keep on moving.

Introduction
It is book of movements. It is for the imagination. These are fragments of the archaic dances. Their forms, structures and characteristics. They called it,
"English Dancing Master".

Dance 1 "Kit's Sequential"
It begins with the sound of the pocket violin.
Its steps move in sequences of fours, threes and fives. It is a dance performed on a damp, grey-green island.

Dance 2 "Castlemorton Common"
This is a dance that begins at least a mile away. 1992. It approaches. Crowds gather. It is upon us. Biased policemen arrive. It retreats. It recedes from view. It is gone.

Dance 3 "Levin's Reverie, Version 1"
This dance is… shuffling… ambling… lingering… lumbering… crouching… resting… hesitating… lurching… pausing… sleeping.

Dance 4 "Winter Gardens"
A shadow of a memory of the baroque, of men and women, sinking slowly, in dark pools, in Northern towns.
Taffeta in candlelight, endlessly turning, under crystal raindrops.
Deep frozen in black glitter.

Dance 5 "King Roland's Almain"
Operational since 1980.
This is music endemic to machines.
Sequenced in patterns of 16.
Its performers are automatons.
Pistons. Factories. Robots.
Royal electricity.

Dance 6 "International Statues"
This dance is also known as:
Peel of London Bells;
Ox on the Mountain;
Thunder, Weather, Lightning;
Cigarette Number 43;
Sly Fox, Stop!;
The Longest Way Round is the Shortest Way Home;
Sugar, Coffee, Lemonade;
The Tiger Has Returned to the Village;
All of Us Are Men Made of Wood;
The Hibiscus Has Bloomed.

Dance 7 "Because We Love Our Pets"
This is a generous form, allowing interspecies participation, through superimposition of rhythms suitable for bipeds, quadrupeds, hexapods, octopods, decapods, myriapods.

Dance 8 "Freedom of the City"
Everyone at their own speed.
Everyone in their own space.
Internal.
External.
GO.

Dance 9 "Young John's Amalgam"
1651. The Beginning of the World, Golden Square, Mars and Venus, The Symphony, Cold and Raw, The Phoenix, Emperor of the Moon, The Wish, Open the Door to Three, The Boatman, Second Thought's Best, The Juice of Barley, Perseus and Andromeda, Rub Her Down with Straw, Xerxes, Bohemia, The Volunteer, The Twins, Cupid's Garden, A Trip to Islington, Phoenix, The Devil's Dream, Essex Building, Jolly Roger, Jupiter and Juno, Europe's Revels, Goddesses, Whirligig, Jamaica, Hamstead [sic] Heath, Humours of the Age, Touch and Go, Peace and Plenty, Black Jack, Britain's Success, The Twenty-Ninth of May, Cockleshells, The Ape's Dance, Good Advice, The Britains [sic], New New Nothing, Neptune's Triumph, Chirping of the Nightingale, Saturday Night and Sunday Morning, Love in a mask, In the Fields in Frost and Snow, Amaryllis, Oaken Leaves, Waltham Abbey, Hole in the Wall, John the Mad Man, Nobody's Jig, The Knot, The Princess, The Gun Fleet, Resolution, Ever Happy, Frank and Easie [sic], A Trip to Killburn [sic], Brisk and Airy, The Last New Vagaries, The Glory of the West, Chestnut, Painted Chamber, Diamond Hall, The Queen of Hearts, Impertinence, The Man Tiger, Golden Age, Love and Beauty, An Old Man Is a Bed Full of Bones, All Alive, New Town, Britain's Glory, Friday Night, As Quick As You Please, Dunkirk, Kill Him with Kindness, About Ship, The Emperor of the Moon, The Green Man, Sage Leaf, Aniseed Water Robin, Vienna, The Opera, The Witches, Short and Sweet, Dour's Catastrophe, Glastenbury [sic], North Britains [sic], The Flying Horse, The Red Bull, Easter Tuesday, Barnacles, Cast a Bell, Newcastle, The Union, Under and Over,

Intrigues of the Town, Nottingham Castle, Greenwood, Slaughterhouse, Arcadia, Excuse Me, Europa, Bellamira, London Bridge, Pegasus, New exchange, Up Tails All, Disappointment, Kettle Drum, Just as You Will, The Slip, Off with the Mask, Rose Is White and Rose Is Red, Upon a Summer's Day, Pinks and Lilies, Confess, Zephirs [sic] and Flora, Black and Grey, New England, Drive the Cold Winter Away.

Dance 10 "For the Solar Plexus"
Nothing but pulse and smoke.
Hepatic, splenic, gastric, pancreatic, suprarenal.
Move your body.
Rectify. Reify.

Dance 11 "Levin's Reverie, Version 2"
This dance is… limping… drifting… staggering… trailing… prowling… hiding… revolving… trudging… sliding… crawling.

Dance 12 "Old Amsterdam"
A dance indivisible from its chemistry. 1999. Everyone had been awake for two days. Lights across the street were extinguished. In a realm of amorphous shapes and translucent walls, music was the only thing that maintained its form. The minutiae of it became mesmeric. Everything extending in all directions. She was a pharmacist with a five-litre flask. She knew the exact quantities, the nature of its administration and its duration. Time began to slip. She told us, "if you take enough of this stuff, you'll meet the aliens who made it." Time began to slip.

Dance 13 "Paradiso"
1977.
Careful filtering has removed rhythm section, lead vocal, horns and percussion, leaving only the string arrangement intact. Deletion of the music culminates in the demolition of this building.
They call it "development".
Enjoy your memories.

Dance 14 "St Vitus / St John"
Bright autumn morning… 1374… boots caked in mud… eyes shining… limbs quivering… high gothic… fellow cultists… arms in sinuous motions… dark spirits gathering… involuntary spasms… holy intercession… we are implicated…

Dance 15 “End of the Night”
Pause.
Your head swims.
Everything is on fire.
Turns out, Mount Parnassus is in smithereens.
Terpsichore lies dead.
Coroner’s report: burnt out lungs, lactic acid.
Your head swims.
Why is the floor so sticky?

Dance 16 “The Ice Sheet”
The slowest of the known forms.
A dance of almost imperceptible movements. It moves like a glacier through the valley.
The Anglian Stage.
We will know it best when it has ceased.
On its departure, it leaves behind drumlins, eskers, moraines.
Cold, clean air.

Dance 17 “Colloid Exchange”
One substance dispersed in another.
Gels, foams, emulsions.
You find yourself in rhythm with strangers.
Frenetic embrace in the centrifuge.
A mass, illuminated by red and blue light.
We liquify.

Dance 18 “Manual Transmission”
This is a dance for the hands only.
For this dance, you need to put your hands in the air.
Put your hands in the air.

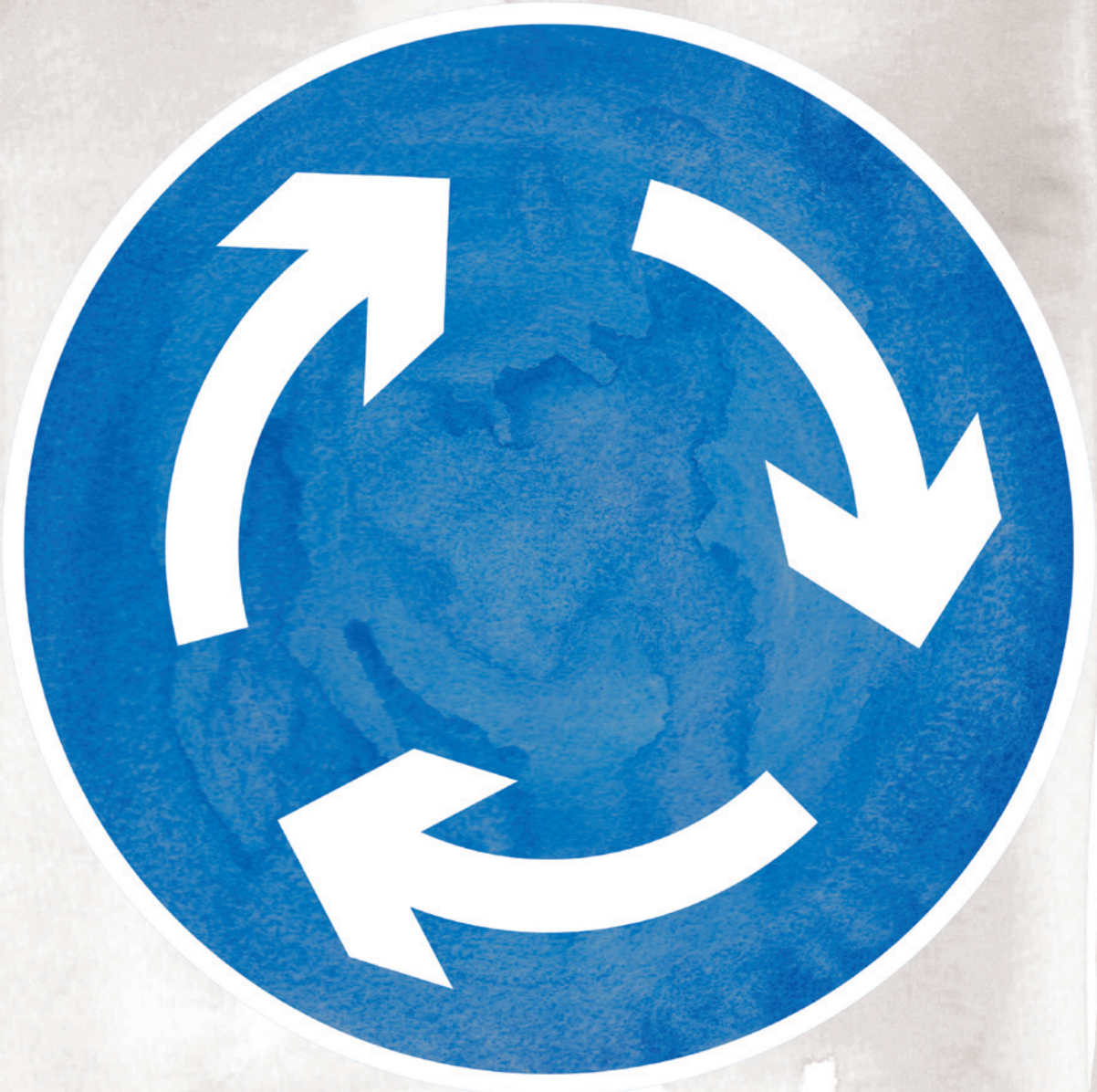
Dance 19 “Submechanophobia”
He cannot sleep.
His body remembers the motion of the water. The enormity of the submerged machinery.
He is drawn towards it.
He is pulled away from it.
Take it down, take it right down.

Dance 20 “Infinity”
The end.
And the beginning.
Keep on moving.

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