



Very Present Tense

A song cycle charting the passage of a grief

In very present tense
I crying blank
Grief is all tenses.
It is, was, and will be.
Sprawled out and bawling
Time breaks us and makes
Untensed silence of us all.

Written by **Christopher Simpson** in response to the loss of his mother, it is a testament of love and a statement of becoming. The songs, referencing diverse musical idioms like blues and Rwandan folk, have been developed in collaboration with Tom Havelock to create an intimate harmonic landscape of **loss, love** and **hope**.

"These songs have been companions, composed at my piano, wandering through streets and sung into cassette recorders on train platforms. I chose to write a song-cycle because I wanted to create a work that accumulates, evolves and transforms just as the passage of a grief does. It is also a recognition of the writing process, of assembling fragments into a coherent whole, the arrangement and rearrangement of the material of one's life that grief demands."

"My mother was from Rwanda and in some songs I sing in her first tongue, Kinyarwanda, emulating folk songs I listened to with her on old cassettes. In others, I sing in a language known only to me, as I used to do when making up songs as a boy. My other musical traces come, perhaps, from my Irish father and my affection for blues."

VERY PRESENT TENSE premiered as part of METAL's Liverpool 2008 Capital of Culture programme.

Intimate

Moving

Atmospheric

<http://soundcloud.com/christopher-simpson>

www.myspace.com/mrchristophersimpson

verypresenttense@gmail.com