

Paul Lodge is Professor of Philosophy at Oxford University and a Fellow of Mansfield College, Oxford. For over thirty years he has been performing original songs for solo voice and guitar, many written with his brother Richard.

His current projects also include 'Shakespeare In The Alley' - a cycle of songs inspired by Shakespeare's plays, which he performed at the Old Fire Station in January 2019 and more recently at the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford - and 'Cotton Mill Poems' - settings of poems written by local people during the Lancashire Cotton Famine of the 1860s.

Paul's most daunting performance to date was at a dinner for Hillary Rodham Clinton in October 2018.

www.paullodge.com



Flights of Helios have charmed Glastonbury and Wilderness audiences with their possessed take on psychedelic folk and post-punk. Steve Lamacq and Don Letts selected recent single 'Magpie/Beast' for BBC 6 Music, adding to previous airplay for album 'Endings' (2018) by Gideon Coe (6 Music), John Kennedy (Radio X) and Simon Raymonde of Bella Union (Amazing Radio).

The band has also soundtracked landmark 1920s animated film 'The Adventures of Prince Achmed' under commission from University of Oxford and contributed to Shakespeare-themed folk album 'The Food Of Love Project' (2017).

For fans of Radiohead, Jeff Buckley, Nick Cave, Pink Floyd and Fairport Convention.

www.flightsofhelios.co.uk



Saturday 29th June 2019

Paul Lodge and Flights of Helios





Gantat Ergo Sumus

Tonight's show is a selection from a longer cycle of songs written by Paul Lodge in which the words of philosophers are put into musical form.

Paul Lodge (vocals/guitar)

Flights of Helios

Chris Beard (vocals)
Phil Hanaway-Oakley (bass/vocals)
Harriet Butler (keyboards/flute/vocals)
James Maund (guitar)
Sian Lloyd-Pratchett (violin/vocals)

with
Pete Smith of Lucy Leaves
(drums/vocals)

Zarathustra's Roundelay

Oh mankind attend!
Oh mankind attend!
What does deep midnight's voice contend?

"I slept my sleep. I slept my sleep. And now awake at dreaming's end.

The world is deep.
The world is deep.
And deeper than day can comprehend.

Deep is its woe.
Deep is its woe.
Joy, deeper than heart's agony.

Woe says: Fade! Go! Woe says: Fade! Go! But all joy wants eternity.

Wants deep, wants deep, deep, deep eternity!"

(Translation by R. J. Hollingdale - modified)

Zarathustra's Roundelay is a poem that appears in two places in Friedrich Nietzsche's book Thus Spoke Zarathustra, which was written between 1883 and 1885. It also appears as the last word in Martin Heidegger's 1929-30 lecture course The Fundamental Concepts of Metaphysics: World, Finitude, Solitude.

New Angel

Mouth open, back smashed. Eyes staring, wings spread. Face turned toward the past. Stay, stay, awaken the dead.

This is he, there is the storm. Turn toward, turn toward, turn toward the storm.

We see a chain of events. He sees only wreck upon wreck. Blowing wind from paradise. Stay, stay, awaken the dead.

This is he, there is the storm. Turn toward, turn toward, turn toward the storm. Toward the storm!

New Angel, future in your wings. History piled high at your feet. Make us whole, make us sing. Stay, stay, awaken the dead.

This is he, there is the storm.

Turn toward, turn toward,
turn toward the storm.

Toward the storm!

New Angel is based on the ninth thesis from Walter Benjamin's 1940 essay "Theses on the Philosophy of History." The ninth thesis is a commentary on the 1920 painting Angelus Novus by Paul Klee, which Benjamin bought in 1921. The lyrics were produced by manipulation of Benjamin's text using the cut-up technique popularized by William S. Burroughs.

Brahma

If the red slayer think he slays, Or if the slain think he is slain, They know not well the subtle ways I keep, and pass, and turn again.

Far or forgot to me is near; Shadow and sunlight are the same; The vanished gods to me appear; And one to me are shame and fame.

They reckon ill who leave me out; When me they fly, I am the wings; I am the doubter and the doubt, I am the hymn the Brahmin sings.

The strong gods pine for my abode, And pine in vain the sacred Seven; But thou, meek lover of the good! Find me, and turn thy back on heaven.

Brahma is a poem written by the American 'transcendentalist' philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1856. It derives its name from 'Brahma/ Brahman' the universal principle of reality that appears in the Indian Vedas. The poem is written in the voice of one who identifies themselves with Brahma.