

I began doing spoken word pretty much as an experiment, eventually adding music, sound effects or my own humming as background to create thematic CDs ("Love Lullabies") and short collage-films (YouTube). Around 2009 or 2010, considering how many of my poems were narratives I often heard in my head as librettos, I actually got around to attempt singing them (Whispers of Arias Volumes One and Two). This seemed a natural progression to me, the spoken word, as the sung word, and really not such a radical step considering how poems had been sung in operas, madrigals etc., for at least a couple of hundred years. Oddly, the reaction to me doing this in this day and age has been one mainly of bafflement: i.e. - if these are poems than why not just speak them; if they are sung then why not make them into accessible songs, such as something for American Idol!?! Well, I let the muse take me where it wanted to go never expecting to make any money as either a poet or a lyricist. I have been working on accapella pieces for a work-in-progress, "Threnody for a Forgotten Plague", work concerned with the early days of the AIDS pandemic, wondering if the words are actually as strong or stronger whether I decide to mix with music in the end or not. When I heard the Carillion samples I knew what I wanted to do with at least four pieces.