

Lipote: An interconnected journey

Libretto by Roxanne Korda

Composed by Oliver Farrow

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This piece is written for a cast of 4 singers who will play multiple roles. Within the scene changes there are sets of music played by a modular synthesiser linked to a plant. The piece can be performed to a pre-recorded soundtrack or with live ensemble

Cast

Singer 1 (Mezzosoprano)	-	Bus 2 (scene 1), Lipote
Singer 2 (Soprano)	-	Bus 1 (scene 1), Taking, Whole Forest, Palm Tree 1, Strangler Fig, Forest Garden, Bus 1 (scene 7)
Singer 3 (Soprano)	-	Bus 3 (scene 1), Whole Forest, Palm Tree 2, Forest Garden, Baby Durian
Singer 4 (Baritone)	-	Bus 4 (scene 1), Giving, Whole Forest, King Durian, Bus 2 (scene 7)
Modular synthesist	-	Scene changes
Narrator (any voice)		

Ensemble

Electric guitar, electric bass guitar, flute, nord keyboard, minilogue korg synthesiser, percussion, modular synthesiser

Scene 1: The Trauma

This scene shows the storm at which leads to the traumatic event of the Mother node tree being struck with lightning. This is very dangerous for the forest as a whole for this node was providing a lot of the support and nutrition for the trees around it. Now this patch of forest will be in need of much extra help.

We are experiencing the trauma from the roots of the forest. The signals in the roots travel at about 1/3 inch per second so they are quite slow. This is represented by the signals appearing as a flow of traffic around the root network. As the storm increases the frequency of signals being sent also increases. In this way the traffic in the roots builds up and becomes more and more congested until the Mother node tree is struck by lightning.

This scene opens with the general hum/background noise, created by the rainforest network. There are groups of messages moving across the aural/visual space.

Each signal will be carried on a "bus" and so they will be called "bus 1, 2, 3, 4". The signals will get more and more anxious and seem to increasingly overlap each other. Some key words will be heard louder than others. These words are in bold.

Spoken

Narrator:

1 Is it really so hard to imagine the things we don't
2 see? Dropping down below the canopy
3 Step under supporting branches,
4 Divide the flowering floor.
5 What lies beneath?

6 Under the compost where we walk,
7 There are sounds we haven't heard. A whole life we didn't see.
8 A whole world of many and one.
9 We have to slow down.
10 Steady our heart beats and open our minds.
11 Life down here works differently.
12 It does not hurry from A to B.
13 Far longer and far more still,
14 But strong and wise.

15 The ground itself holds an ancient knowledge
16 Permeating a memory longer than humans have known.

17 I'm talking about the roots of the trees,
18 And the fungal networks.
19 The mycorrhizal passages that talk and respond,
20 Give and take,
21 Support and integrate.

22 All the wiry humus beneath our feet.
23 Those dead looking corridors are not dead at all.
24 And when there is a problem they talk.

When we enter the network it is the start of the storm. During this section the voices build in anxiety until the lighting hits.

BEFORE THE IMPACT

Individual voice

25 Bus 1: Shaky crown above

(pause)

26 **Shaky** crown above

27 Bus 2: A colleague encounters **crisis**

(pause)

Cacophony

28 Bus 1: Shaky crown **above**
29 A rustling in the living climate
30 **Interconnected** humus standby

31 Bus 3: Give and take **broadcast**

(pause)

Individual voice

32 Bus 1: Shaky crown above
33 A rustle -

34 Bus 3: Give and take -

35 Bus 2: A colleague encounters a **crisis**

36 Bus 4: Irreparably generated

37 Bus 1: In the living -

38 Bus 3: - broadcast

39 Bus 2: Formulate inter-

40 Bus 4: - **uprooting**

(pause)

Cacophony

41 Bus 1: A colleague encounters a **crisis**
 42 Formulate inter-
 43 Bus 2: - connected humus **Trigger** exposed branches
 44 Bus 4: A living sick **alarm**
 45 Bus 1: Shaky crown above
 46 A rustle in the living climate
 47 **Interconnected humus** stand by
 48 Mobilise bilious dispersal unit
 49 Bus 3: Give and take broadcast:
 50 Support! Support! **Electrical storms!**

THE IMPACT

The lightning strikes the mother tree. The second bus cries out.

Individual voice

51 Bus 2: Give and take broadcast

*There is a dizzy moment when the trees are reeling from the hit.
 Then slowly they begin to chatter to each other sending messages
 frantically around the network.*

Cacophony

52 Bus 1: Shaky crown above
 53 A rustle in the living climate
 54 **Interconnected humus** stand by
 55 Mobilise -
 56 - bilious di -
 57 - spersal unit
 58 Nourish this community herd
 59 Bus 3: Give and take **broadcast:**
 60 Support! Support! Electrical storms! Transmitted
 61 signal -
 62 **Trigger** exposed
 63 Isolation **exposed** branches -
 64 - Blish damage -
 65 - assistance
 66 Bus 2: A colleague encounters crisis
 67 Formulate interconnected humus - bark humidity -
 68 - connect vicinity -
 69 - connect vicinity -
 70 - trunks -
 71 Bus 4: Irreparably generated uprooting
 72 Colony - pump this super-organism

73 Super orga-
74 -nism encounters
75 Arboreal stump
76 A decisive weather -
77 - vestige

78 Bus 1: Nouri-

79 Bus 2: Storm

80 Bus 3: Esta-

81 Bus 4: Storm

THE HANGOVER

Whole forest

After the forest has cried out together it comes back to collectively heal and feel its pain.

82 Bus 1,2,3,4: Mother node down,
83 Facilitate the mercy message,
84 Nourish our community herd.

Individual voice

85 Bus 3: Support! Support! Electrical storms!

86 Bus 4: Irreparably generated uprooting
87 Signal of **community** isolation

88 Bus 3: Support! Support!

89 Bus 1: Climate -
90 Interconnected -

91 Bus 2: Connected humus -

92 Bus 1: Humus - **standby**.

Whole forest

93 Bus 2,3,4: **Storms.**

94 Bus 1,2,3,4: A decomposing irreparable fungal network.
95 Mother node down.

Scene 2: The Plantation

This scene is an introduction to the root network of the plantation. This network is unconnected. Each tree is its own beacon. The plantation appears almost like a cult. All of the trees in the plantation live to praise the humans. They each chant the same tune and dance to the same beat. They are given life by the humans and live to serve their demands. They sing the plantation song below.

Song

All propagation representatives (pre-recorded palm tree voices):

96 Chorus:
97 Grow fast, make oil.
98 Have fun, sing soil.
99 Don't rot, don't spoil.
100 In tune, our toil.
101 Be fed, be picked.
102 Nitrogen addict.

103 Verse:
104 Each one of us is born to be
105 Bred, watered, fed, for quality.
106 We live out the same histories,
107 Cloned life bred through equality.
108 If one becomes a casualty,
109 They won't affect our unity,
110 Lost life not our priority.

111 Chorus:
112 Grow fast, make oil.
113 Have fun, sing soil.
114 Don't rot, don't spoil.
115 In tune, our toil.
116 Be fed, be picked.
117 Nitrogen addict.

118 Verse:
119 Our sacrificial fruits offered
120 To terrestrial controllers,
121 Trusted victual providers,
122 Who feed us with dogmatic drip,
123 Enough for all to be equipped.
124 Trickling through the earth we grip,
125 Without whom we could not exist.

126 Verse:
127 We happy and obedient,
128 Employed in endless coherence,
129 Through rows of repetition.
130 Fulfilment of the mission,
131 To take and then reciprocate,
132 On this land we rejuvenate,
133 With all we are to propagate

.

134 Chorus:
135 Grow fast, make oil.
136 Have fun, sing soil.
137 Don't rot, don't spoil.
138 In tune, our toil.
139 Be fed, be picked.
140 Nitrogen addict.

Scene 3: The Volunteer

The scene begins with a forest wide alarm. We then start to hear the problems from different parts of the forest. Some trees are struggling as they cannot get the nutrients they used to be supplied with. Others are giving some away but no longer have enough to keep on giving. Some seem to have gone silent. Some are screaming to be heard. This happens for a short amount of time and the signal starts to change. They start to realise that it is necessary for the trees to look for help outside of the forest. Finally, we hear the call for a volunteer. This is filtered and then we hear a response. The Lipote tree responds and tell the forest why they are the right choice. There is a lot of noise but in general the noise is a kind of agreement, and the Lipote tree is chosen.

Spoken

141 Lipote: The forest is out of balance.
142 Many mother trees are almost lost.
143 Made old by the storm they need more than they can
144 give.

145 I, a lonely Lipote tree, listen the midst of this
146 vertigo.
147 Rooted on the edge of the forest,
148 One side facing the sheer emptiness.
149 I still grieve friends I lost before.

150 As the storm subsides, I hear the alarm and, with the
151 fungal network, can go in search of memories in the
152 stolen grounds.

Ensemble - Forest Chaos

Taking/Giving/Whole Forest:
153 Alert! Carbon crossing blocked-
154 Barricaded soil-

155 Taking: Bring supplies,
156 Replenish lost life,

Taking/Giving/Whole Forest:
157 Support with extra nourishment.

158 Giving: For each fading tree this forest wide resource
159 Has sugars, waters, sun rays stored

160 Taking: Nodes all over down.
161 Young and old are suffering.
162 Seek help. From within.
163 Seeking help from within.

164 Giving: Supplies here to repair
165 The charred bark, blitzed threads
166 darkened voices, broken cords

167 Take all we can give.

Change of tone as panic heightens

Taking/Whole Forest:

168 The more we take the more we leak.
169 Drained from tubes and tunnels to soil.
170 Lost in earth - our memories now destroyed.
171 The more we take the more we leak.

172 Whole Forest: We cannot provide enough
173 To keep our vitals balanced.
174 Our communal life-force displaced .

Chorus

175 Whole Forest: The community must seek help,
176 In regions we dare not cross.
177 Beyond the fiery edge.
178 To reclaim a world we lost.

179 Giving: Whatever we give is not easily replaced.

180 Whole Forest: We ask for a volunteer.

*The voice of the wise bus is passed all around the forest network,
spreading to the farthest edges.*

Lipote now speaks (sung).

Arietta

181 Lipote: I volunteer to help!
182 I live on the fiery edge,
183 Where past traumas deafen the soil.

184 Yet, recently I felt enriched nourishment.
185 The other side has a source.

186 Let me send out my roots
187 Find a network.
188 Seek the help that may be found.

*Lipote's message is sent to the rest of the network. They hear it and
respond.*

Forest Chaos

189 Taking: A volunteer from the fiery edge -

190 Giving: Will feel out the forgotten mud -

191 Taking: How can we be sure, what's there will not take more?

192 Giving: Or trust this lonely soul?

The wise bus speaks hushing all of the worrisome thoughts and messages.

Chorus

193 Whole Forest: Our exposed, gnarled and wormy creek
194 Is grateful for your sacrifice.
195 Go out, stretch, search into the deep,
196 We'll ask the soil for life.

*The Lipote tree receives the signal, with practical acknowledgement
it readies itself for the journey ahead*

Arietta

197 Lipote: The trust of so many,
198 The confidence of our whole,
199 Gives me strength.
200 I carry our thoughts.
201 I do not travel alone,
202 To the vestige of our home.

Chorus

203 Whole Forest: Our interconnected humus
204 Besieged by fires from the earth and sky,
205 Is always here and always there.
206 Call out - we shall reply

*Lipote sends a rush of energy down to the tips of the roots to push
and grow in the direction of the edge/*

Arietta

207 Lipote: With intractable resolve,
208 And the thrumming of my clan,
209 I will push towards the white noise,
210 Invade the shell-shocked land.
211 Hairs erect, -

212 Lipote + Whole Forest:
213 - ready to inspect!

The music rushes as Lipote sends its roots forth into the darkness.

Scene 4: Conversation

Lipote's tips, and the mycorrhizal threads attached, make their way across the edge. The fields of radiation pulse and magnify at different points. Loud and soft Lipote hears a beat. It is not the same as the rainforest beat. It does not thump with the noise of many voices. It thumps with the voice of one purpose. One mission. This voice is very distant to Lipote. It is far above where the Lipote is used to hearing other trees. It sends the network upwards to nearer the surface of the soil.

Chours

214 Palm Trees: Be fed, be picked.
215 Nitrogen addict.

Lipote listens and sends information back to the Rainforest.

Recitative

216 Lipote: Such an assemblage of voices.
217 Whole Forest: Such an assemblage
218 Lipote: Jostling, chanting, in unison.
219 Whole Forest: Jostling chanting
220 Lipote: My hairs flinch -
221 Whole Forest: Hairs flinch.
222 Lipote: My trunk falters -
223 Whole Forest: Trunk falters.
224 Lipote: Is this really the vestige of my home?
225 Palm Trees: Don't rot, don't spoil.
226 In tune our toil.

Spoken

227 Narrator: The palm trees are not like the rainforest.
228 They are alien, childlike, impenetrable, desperate
229 and scared,
230 Living in a servile repetition.
231 Are they happy to be here? In a foreign soil, flown
232 so fast and so far from their home.

The Lipote pushes its way towards one of the palm plantation trees. It is fearful but remembers the importance of its mission. It feels and hears a rush of all the rainforest voices helping it push forward.

Recitative

233 Lipote: I do not travel alone.
 234 Whole Forest: Fungal friends
 235 Lipote: My fungal friends travel upwards -
 236 Take,
 237 Whole Forest: Take,
 238 Lipote: My,
 239 Whole Forest: My,
 240 Lipote: Message to the field of noise.

The Lipote reaches out it's hairs and the mycorrhizal travels to the roots of the palm trees to make contact. Lipote sends out this message:

241 Lipote: I am seeking help.
 242 Whole Forest: Seeking help
 243 Lipote In need of -
 244 Whole Forest: In need of -
 245 Lipote: Support.
 246 Whole Forest: Support.
 247 Lipote: Anything given is always returned.
 248 Whole Forest: Returned.

The Lipote sings this message out of its root, through the fungal strands, to the plantation root.

Duet

249 Palm Tree 1: Grow fast,
 250 Make oil.

Lipote is confused but carries on regardless.

251 Lipote: I seek help.
 252 Palm Tree 1: Don't rot, don't spoil.

253 *The Mycorrhizal network cannot connect successfully to the palm.*
 254 *Lipote's frustration builds and Lipote shouts out with the force of*
 255 *the whole rainforest.*

256 Lipote: Can you help?
 257 Or support?

This voice is now heavy and overwhelming echoes through the soil to the Palm. The Palm tree is shocked and scared. Its roots recoil and it falls into a distorted tailspin as its own messages get confused in a short-circuiting of its normal root system.

258 Palm Tree 1: Grow fast . . . Grow fast
259 Oil . . . Oil
260 Make
261 Spoil
262 Spoil. Rot.
263 Fast.
264 Rot fast.

265 *Lipote hears this confusion and hurriedly responds.*

266 Lipote: Do not wrinkle and hurkle.
267 I am not bad.
268 Do not spoil.

In a mechanised tailspin the plantation tree whirs.

269 Palm Tree 1: Rot fast.
270 Make toil.
271 Don't tune.
272 Our spoil.
273 Rot fast.
274 Don't oil.

Lipote recedes with worry and regret.

Recitative

Lipote and Whole Forest:

275 Their roots have no portal,
276 No way to pass a signal,
277 And now it's out of tune.
278 Dizzied and confused.
279 So fragile, so confined.
280 Imprisoned in its mind.

Lipote pushes forwards to the next plantation tree root.

Duet

281 Palm Tree 2: Nitrogen addict.
282 Nitrogen addict.

Lipote sends out another message.

283 Lipote: I am Lipote.
284 How can I help?

Lipote's message gets filtered through the mycorrhizae to the Palm.

285 Palm Tree 2: Nitrogen addict.

286 Lipote: I have little left to give.
287 Not much we can exchange.

Palm Tree 2 (with anxiety):
288 Watered, bred, fed.
289

290 Lipote: Do you need a friend? Advice?

Lipote is becoming frustrated.

291 My knowledge is deep.

292 Palm Tree 2: Rejuvenate. Propagate.

*After hearing about rejuvenation Lipote is relieved and excited.
Lipote replies very enthusiastically to this.*

293 Lipote: Yes - we must rejuvenate!
294 Can you help?

With anger and fierceness suddenly directed upon Lipote.

295 Palm Tree 1+2: The victual providers.
296 Feed me.
297 Drip. Drip.
298 Nitrogen Addict.
299 Nitrogen Addict.
300 Nitrogen Addict .

*The plantation palm tree begins to attempt to wrap its roots around
the Lipote roots in a strangulation. The Lipote tree is scared and
quickly retreats.*

Recitative

301 Lipote: What scabrous fronds!
302 This is no use.
303 I must move on even further,
304 Search for someone -
305 Who speaks the language of this land.

*The Lipote sends information about the land and these encounters
back to the network. What Lipote sense is a silence. Nothing has
been found of use. There is no way to get help from these trees.*

Scene 5: The Strangler Fig

306 Lipote: Silence tells the forest -
307 Nothing here can give.
308
309 A message from those noisy voiceless trees -
310 Withholding
311 Giving neither help nor hope.

The forest hears the silence. They respond with resources as information of what they are lacking. There is a need for more carbon still. The fungal network needs also to repair.

Lipote receives these resources and searches the soil for what is missing and what can be returned. There is a rush of voices and sound that approaches Lipote.

312 Whole Forest: Arboreal stump, feel for forgotten mud
313 Move on and help us to repair
314 Charred bark, blitzed roots, damaged hairs
315 Burnt out memories.

316 Lipote: Message received and understood.

Lipote carries on forwards the noise of the plantation starts to dissipate behind it as it moves into different lands. As Lipote moves forward it comes to the land of the Strangler Fig. This land is much darker than the bright rainforest and the giddy/empty plantation. The strangler fig has taken hold of this land. It has destroyed the forest that was there and taken it for itself.

The music darkens.

Spoken

317 Narrator: Lipote strives on to the banyan land of the
318 Strangler Fig.
319 At first perched with the birds,
320 It grew down from the sky,
321 Long toes stretching into strings.
322 A vaulted tree clinging to life on earth.
323 Consuming and suffocating, holding its host in a
324 deadly headlock.
325 Storms have come and gone whilst the Strangler
326 protected its victim,
327 Until at last, the tree on which the seed first
328 lay, was hooded into submission,
329 And faded back to the earth.

Recitative/Arietta

330 Strangler fig: Many creatures come to feed above.
331 Living together in the air.
332 A skeleton made from sunlight
333 Gives shelter and food

The voice of the Strangler fig is distant, organic and murmuring as it clicks and trickles through the soil.

334 Lipote: Empty tunnels, forgotten passageways.
335 There were friends here
336 Not dug away.
337 Their networks rotten,
338 Their threads decayed.

The Strangler fig now speaks with a terrifying and welcoming roar.

339 Strangler fig: But who is this disturbs my realm below?
340 An unannounced arrival.
341 Come to take back the land?
342 Announce yourself.

The Strangler Fig's voice bounces around Lipote in a harmonic unison.

343 Who are you?

344 Lipote (feebly): I am seeking help

The booming voice starts to soften

345 Strangler Fig: You must come closer to be heard.

346 Lipote (scared): (aside) My family are so far behind me.

347 Whole forest: Always hear and always there

348 Lipote (reassuringly):

349 (aside) I do not travel alone

Louder

350 I am seeking help.

351 Strangler Fig: If it is help you seek then welcome to my home.

352 Above the soils I nurture with my fruit,

353 Shelter souls in my walls.

354 My helping halls

Lipote feels stronger and is moved to reply.

355 Lipote: I have travelled carrying the voice of my home.

356 The fire that rages in the skies,

357 Strikes us

358 A deadly snap.

359 The wastes of the storm left scattered and burnt,

360 Searching for help in the soil.

361 Strangler Fig: I too have lost friends,

362 I am the only one left here now.

363 I grew on them and hugged too tight.

364 Then came the humans.

365 Their touches of fire and blade.

366 They destroyed all around but left me here.
367 They make their yearly pilgrimage, tie bands around
368 my branches,
369 As I tied around my friends.

370 Lipote: Bands around your branches and fear around my home.
371 I have visited the destroyed lands.
372 I met the trees that grow there now.
373 Making new memories in the soil.
374 Memories that can't be shared.

375 Strangler Fig: Come closer. Let us hug.
376 Let us heal each other's loss.
377 Stay with me -

378
379 Duet

380
381 You will not live or die alone.

382 Lipote: I am seeking help for my home

383 Strangler Fig: You need not return there.
384 Now we are together.

The strangler fig extends its tendrils towards Lipote and starts to wrap them around Lipote's legs and body. Lipote at first allows this but soon begins to sense how much of a struggle it would be to leave. Lipote starts to reach out and the Strangler Fig starts to entwine further and further around Lipote's body.

385 Strangler Fig: In my sun made skeleton
386 In my sheltering walls
387 Many creatures made their homes

388 They stay then rot into the soil
389 Now still inside these hallowed halls
390 Abiding, residing memories

391 Written upon
392 My sun made skeleton

During this sung text Lipote struggles more then frees themselves from the Stranglers grasp.

393 Lipote: Bands of fear and death,
394 Conserving to consume,
395 You'll save us in order to destroy.

396 I must move on even further.

Lipote crawls as fast as it can away from the Strangler Fig. Echoes of the Strangler Fig's world play on until Lipote has left the stage and moved on.

Scene 6: The Forest Garden

Lipote has escaped the Strangler Fig and moved on to just beyond that territory. It comes into a land that sounds reminiscent. It has elements of things heard in the previous worlds. But it also has its own character.

Spoken

397 Narrator: Lipote is lost.
398 The plantation cannot listen,
399 The strangler fig wants to take too much.

400 Resources from home are running out,
401 Time trickles away.

402 Slowly moving forward
403 Lipote prays to the soil.

Lipote sings a short aria lamenting to the soil.

Song of soil

Lipote:

Recitative

404 Is this all that is left for us
405 From the rich warm home
406 We mapped and explored?
407 Our soil conquered, tilled
408 So evenly that now
409 There is nothing left to grip

Aria

410 Soily substrate
411 Which built the air
412 Crafted life
413 From earth to sky
414 Archived layers of time,
415 We live among each other
416 Micro to mighty
417 In your damp and musty scent

418 Soily substrate,
419 Give us back our life.

Lipote sings this woefully.

Spoken

420 Narrator: Lipote moves into new territories,
421 Lands that have been touched and altered by man
422 But that have also been left to grow
423 A balanced land - a Forest Garden.
424

425 This land is ancient too
426 As old as Lipote and the rainforest can remember
427 But man and woman have worked with it and among it
428 Praying and protecting
429 Thanking it for the fruits, nuts and grains it can
430 bear.

As Lipote travels closer to the Taungya/Forest Garden it starts to hear a variety of voices. Some of these voices work together, and some seem to work more on their own, but all have an awareness of the whole. It is somewhere between the plantation and the rainforest. Sometimes regular but always in dialogue.

The Forest Garden song

431 Forest Garden: Our multistoried paradise
432 With walking caretakers

433 King Durian: They clear the ground
434 Where saplings land
435 Cared for and named
436 Beneath their feet
437 With music and fruits
438 Among us they meet.

439 Forest Garden: Our multistoried paradise
440 With walking caretakers

441 King Durian: Worms work to feed
442 The hungry earth
443 Interfacing death to birth
444 Fungal highways
445 Bacterial trains
446 Around each root - a cityscape

447 Forest Garden: Our multistoried paradise
448 With walking caretakers

449 King Durian: For years my fruits
450 Have been a source
451 For both a sweet and savoury course
452 In market towns
453 And here I grow

454 Forest Garden: Our multistoried paradise
455 With walking caretakers

456 King Durian: When fruits run dry
457 We raise our masts
458 Names exchanged for floors of nuts
459 The climbers pluck
460 This garden feeds
461 And grows in full- regeneratively

462 Forest Garden: Our multistoried paradise
463 With walking caretakers

Lipote stretches out and makes contact with the Forest Garden's network.

Recitative

464 Lipote: I am Lipote. We are seeking help.

465 King Durian: Were you planted from above?
466 Welcome to our Forest Garden.

467 Lipote: I come from far away.
468 Our soils flooded and burnt by storms.

469 King Durian: You have come here for help?
470 We must learn of your home
471 Let our fungal networks fuse,
472 Build a highway from your land to ours.

Lipote's fungal network reaches out and starts to join with the network of the Durian and the Forest Garden. As it does this the Durian and Forest Garden network can learn of Lipote's journey.

Duet

473 Forest Garden: We see how far from home you are -
474 Delivering the mercy message.
475 We hear the storm that sent you here,
476 We see the Strangler's world of fear -

477 Lipote: And in between those voiceless trees -

478 King Durian: Who choked your home
479 With a dogmatic monochrome
480 Rows of replica trees
481 Rooted in lifeless soils.

482 Lipote: Forest Garden - help us please!

A sound interrupts their conversation. There is a sudden rush of activity as the ground starts to vibrate.

Recitative

483 Forest Garden: Alert! Alert!

484 *Voices ring through the network.*

485 Forest Garden: Fungal highways cut.
486 Arcades uprooted.
487 Alert! Alert!

Lipote is scared suddenly. This sounds familiar to the voices of its home.

488 Lipote: Forest Garden, Durian tree
489 I feel your beating agony

Durian Tree speaks in terror

490 King Durian: Our walking caretakers have gone
491 No laughter in my earth,
492 No music through the soil.

493 Forest Garden: Alert Alert!
494 Swinging branches - creatures flee.
495 Insects burrow deep to hide.
496 Fungal highways cut.
497 Arcades uprooted fast.

Lipote has a memory of this feeling from when the fiery edge was created around its home.

498 Lipote: (aside to themselves)
499 Is this what happened to our lands?
500 The fiery edge -
501 (to the Forest Garden)
502 A white noise will surround your home.

The fungal networks continue to fuse and the pain of the Forest Garden gets louder and harsher. The voices of the Forest Garden become overwhelming to the Lipote.

503 Forest Garden: Alert! Alert!
504 Our paradise ripped out.
505 Fungal highways wrecked.
506 Arcades uprooted fast

(in a panic the Forest Garden speaks to Lipote)

507 Hurry - take our memories -
508 Share our knowledge fast.

509 Lipote: We'll fuse further
510 Our networks making matted earth
511 Your wisdom shared with us
512 We shall retain your worth!

513 King Durian: Where are those who cared for us?

A sudden and loud rumble is heard as the ground between the Lipote and Durian tree is dug into. Connections are severed and a high pitched painful noise rings out.

514 King Durian: Remember our multistoried paradise
515 Alert! Alert! A -

As the Garden is cut off the high pitched pain rings out.

Spoken

516 Lipote: Forest Garden? Durian?
517 Fungal threads broken. Dug out.
518 A flattened rhizome.
519 No help to take home.

SCENE 7 THE MARRIAGE

As we open scene 7 we are back at the rainforest. The narrator speaks and tells us of the problems the Forest Garden has faced. During this we hear a distant and scrambled sound of the alert message from the Forest Garden.

Spoken

520 Narrator: Our Lipote tree has stretched as far as its
521 energies can muster.
522 Through different worlds in different soils
523 Nurtured by other forces and grasping hands
524 The knowledge of the forest is now greater
525 Memories made in other grounds
526 It is stronger, rarer, wiser
527 There is little help to be found
528 Where does this leave our forest now?

The rainforest speaks with the voice of the wise bus.

Chorus

529 Whole Forest(wise bus):
530 We saw beyond the fiery edge
531 To regions we dared cross
532 To lands, where once,
533 Our kind had been
534 To seek some help
535 For networks lost

The rainforest then becomes more animated and speaks in many voices.

Recitative

536 Bus 1: Return to us
537 Our volunteer
538 Together we have travelled far

539 Bus 2: Our fungal friends
540 Felt out the soil
541 Meeting creatures in the porous dark

542 Lipote: Many voices touched my hairs
543 Shared their experience
544 I found traumas beyond the storm

The rainforest is sad but also brave as it speaks to Lipote.

Spoken

545 Narrator: The rainforest has felt it all
 546 There is a land with human gods, feeders,
 547 Victual providers who till the earth
 548 Replacing memories with uniformity.
 549 There is the land that humans worship
 550 Allowing one tree to rule the barks.
 551 And the land the humans lived in
 552 Worked and played on
 553 Managed, trimmed and planted.
 554 Living at the speed of the trees,
 555 Then ravaged like fire
 556 Ripped out out by machines.

We return to Lipote and the whole forest

Recitative

557 Lipote: Before our connection to the Forest Garden was cut
 558 - our networks fused

559 Whole Forest: Our knowledge grew

560 Lipote: Our communities had crossed

Song of new knowledge

This song can have a beautiful and weaving melody, canon like. The voices can be overlapping in a calming polyphony. Like scene 1 but more in control.

561 Bus 1: We learned how trees are planted
 562 We heard how grounds are cleared

563 Bus 2: We felt how fruits are picked
 564 We saw with tall trees huts disappeared

565 Lipote: We felt the branches taken
 566 Trees trimmed and used for tools

567 Whole Forest: We learnt it makes us young again
 568 A rebalance of old and new

As the rainforest and Lipote sing together of what they have learnt in the Forest Garden, a new voice starts to bleed into the conversation - the Baby Durian tree.

Duet between Baby Durian and whole forest

569 Baby Durian: Cared for and named
570 Beneath their feet.

The rainforest carries on talking.

571 Bus 1: We shared our worlds
572 Forged new fungal pathways
573 Densley matted and deep

Baby Durian interjects singing sweetly

574 Baby Durian: Worms work to feed
575 The hungry earth
576 Interfacing death to birth

Back to the Whole Forest.

577 Bus 2: But seismic vibrations
578 Crushed their soils -

Baby Durian interrupts again

579 Baby Durian: For years my fruits
580 Have been a source

Recitative

581 Lipote: Forest - I hear a voice
582 Listen - it is new

583 Whole Forest: Yes - we hear it too

Trio

584 Baby Durian: Our multistoried paradise

585 Lipote: In the air are other feet

586 Baby Durian: With walking caretakers

587 Whole Forest: They clear the ground

588 Baby Durian: Aaaah -

Aria

589 Baby Durian: Uprooted from my home
590 I escaped those machines
591 Which ate and spat out my family

592 Caretakers in crisis

593 Became displaced a changing of state
594 Defoliated and dislocated
595 We were forced to go

Recitative

596 Lipote: The humans came here?

597 Durian: They will rebuild their homes
598 Heal their wounds

599 Whole Forest: We will be changed and managed through their hands.

600 Baby Durian: You were seeking help from us
601 Now we seek help from you.
602 In partnership we grow together
603 Heal scars from fires and weather

Spoken

604 Narrator: The people of the Forest Garden
605 Forced out of their land by machines
606 Make a new home in the woods
607 They will maintain and manage the land
608 The land which filters our waters and airs
609 The soils which feed the trees,
610 And the fungus which connects it all

The Whole Forest the sings a final acceptance of its fate.

Chorus

611 Whole Forest: Our interconnected humus
612 Has penetrated the fiery edge
613 And shall always continue to spread

614
615 Track paths in the stolen soils
616 Make knowledge in the earth
617 Reform destroyed memories

618
619 We will offer you our help
620 Make space in our home
621 And marry our lives to yours

The rainforest has now fused with the Durian and welcomes in the displaced members of the forest Garden. It will continue under new management. Moving from Forest to Woodland. A new future landscape.