

**"...with zitterings of flight released,"  
(in memoriam Kenneth Gaburo)**

**an electroacoustic composition for two-channel playback**

**David Dunn  
1993**

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The work was created through the digital signal processing of small audio fragments (5 to 20 seconds in duration) generated by a gigantic, one-of-a-kind, hybrid analog synthesizer built by Bill Hearn, the Vidium MK II. While the Hearn machine was intended as a "hyper Lissajous pattern generator" for control of a multi-channel video display, its audio capabilities are unique. All of the sounds were initially generated by this analog device which exhibits an extraordinary range of rich non-linear behaviors that were "unpacked" by the digital computer to reveal their embedded complexity. The realtime signal processing was accomplished with a Spectral Synthesis digital audio workstation (IBM platform) with multiple Texas Instruments TMS320C25 DSP chips and some custom code.

The work was composed over an intense and continuous 5 day period (including nights). While working on the piece I had in mind various images and metaphors for the drama of the spirit's separation from the body as described by a variety of shamanic and spiritual traditions. It is a memorial for my teacher Kenneth Gaburo whose rejection of the idea of "state-of-the-art-technology" led him to state that he preferred knobs to terminals. Along with everything else, this piece is my attempt to reconcile these two domains of electronic sound generation. I hope it is obvious to those who knew Kenneth why it is about and for him. The title is a line borrowed from Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*.