

# CAREY CAMPBELL

## Best with headphones Ep1

**FBK2** — This piece began an exploration of echo feedback, which was something I naively thought would behave itself according to my wishes. Instead, I found the feedback, as a natural phenomenon, tended to have a mind of its own, and so in a very real sense what you hear is a constant give-and-take between the controller (me) and that which defies control (the feedback). I'm pretty sure the natural phenomenon won, and always will.

**PBD19** — Whenever a composer sets a text, he or she lays bare their own view of that text. In Sagan's description of our tiny place in the universe I find hope and wonderment, to be sure, but also a sense of bleakness and humility, which I do not shy away from in my setting. Sagan's excerpt ends with a call to action that I hope we will all heed, not only for the sake of the future, but also for those of us living right here, right now.

***Souvenir*** — Memory is a funny thing. We tend not to remember events in documentary detail; rather, our memories tend to be fragmentary, lingering on some moments more than others. As time passes, those fragments tend to get less and less clear. This piece uses Artur Schnabel's recording of Beethoven's "Pathétique" Sonata (second movement) as source material to explore this experience of memory.

***Stratum*** — This piece was one of a set of artworks on the theme "Unmaking Monuments". My take on the theme meditates on how the monuments of our lives (which can be of course people, places, or things) so often get ceremoniously declared yet their status wanes over time. Sometimes they erode, sometimes they fall to neglect or disrepair, sometimes they get covered in dust, and sometimes they are aggressively destroyed in order to make room for other, seemingly more immediate concerns (money, status, oil, fossil fuels, etc).

***Come up for air*** — As someone who struggles with an anxiety disorder, several of my pieces — including this one — express my experience of trying to bottle up feelings that I know are unreasonable (but still very real) in order to function and appear "normal" to the rest of the world.