Singing lessons on the Czech Republic on pandemic times.

“ I, too, overflow; my desires have invented new desires (…)I, too, have felt so full of luminous torrents that I could burst (…) And I, too, said nothing, showed nothing; I didn't open my mouth, I didn't repaint my half of the world. I was ashamed. I was afraid, and I swallowed my shame and my fear (…) Who, feeling a funny desire stirring inside her (to sing, to write, to dare to speak, in short, to bring out something new), hasn't thought she was sick?- Hélène Cicoux.

All I knew was that my singing teacher´s name was Emily. When she opened the door she was carrying a cat in her arms that seemed very energetic. She smiled and I could notice that she was calm.

--Hi! -She said.

A very enthusiastic and nervous hi escaped from my mouth as an answer, and then I entered through the door.

-So, this is going to be our place. Oh!, And this Frida -Said showing to me her cat. Do you have any problem with cats?

I kept staring at Frida and I answered that I had no problems. The truth is that I’m allergic to cats but at that moment, I was so excited that I didn’t found that important.

Then, I followed her through the hall. At the end of it, we went up the stairs, and we entered into the highest room of the house. There was a keyboard, a lot of books and paintings all over the walls, one of them showed a really strange creature dancing. The color of the walls was brown like the wood, and I had the feeling of being in a tree house.

We sited down on the floor, face to face. I introduced myself and I told here that I came from Spain, and that I was here because of a scholarship at the University.

--Oh, what a time to study abroad- she said, and she seemed sorry. I hope that this can be a place where you can enjoy. How long have you been singing?

--Since I was 10 years, but I've only been going to classes for two years. That´s so great. And…Why do you sing ? Why singing and not anything else? -She asked to me.

And suddenly and subtly started felling something familiar. A lack of air.

Why do I sing?

Just for a second Janis Joplin crossed my mind. Her rowdy hair, her kind blue eyes ready to laugh, like sparkles, her smile…

“Take another little piece of my heart now baby”

But as soon as the image of Janis disappeared, came the nothingness. I realized that nobody asked me that question before. To me, it was as if I had to reveal a secret or as if I had to justify my wish.

A considerable amount of time must have passed because Emily changed the question and said, --Do you have any experience with breathing techniques?

I swallowed my fear and I answered that yes, that I knew some breathing techniques.

I wish I had the guts then to answer. But I wasn’t able, as I haven’t been able to express my desires so many other times.

I swallowed then, and I swallow now remembering that moment, and I wonder:

How many luminous torrents have I turned off ?

I went to that class because of a desire, because of Janis Joplin, Because I too, overflow.