**We, Margaret**

**A Mass Declamation in Her Own Words**

Dan Rebellato

*Everyone is on the stage.*

*They assemble and stand in a choir formation. They have their scripts, either in hand or on music stands. Perhaps they might have miners’ helmets or head-torches.*

*When they speak, they speak in clear, confident unison. The numbers below refer to the number of voices speaking in unison.*

*We should admire the skill involved in speaking in unison, be exhilarated by the dynamic adjustments of volume, be inspired by the sense of collective power on display.*

*The piece should be performed with snap and pace, with moments of silence and moments of great volume.*

**All** My Lord Mayor, my late Lord Mayor, Your Excellencies, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen.

**6** Secretary General, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

**All** My Lord Mayor, My Late Lord Mayor, Your Grace, your Excellencies, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen.

**4** It is a great pleasure to be here in Rome

**2** Scotland

**2** Malawi

**2** Norwich.

**All** Your Royal Highness, Your Excellency, Lord Montagu, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen.

**3** when we speak with one voice in world affairs we carry much more weight than any of us could do on our own

**All** We speak with one voice on western security interests.

**3** I hope that we shall be able to speak with one voice in Tokyo and that it will be a powerful voice

**5** In a democracy, people must act as individuals.

**All** But they must also act together

**5** We are all unequal. No one -

**All** thank heavens -

**5** is like anyone else;

**All** however much the Socialists may pretend otherwise.

**4** One of the reasons that we value individuals is not because they're all the same,

**All** but because they're all different.

**Men** I believe you have a saying in the Middle West:

**Women** ‘Don't cut down the tall poppies. Let them rather grow tall.’

**All** I would say,

**Men** let our children grow tall

**Women**  and some taller than others

**4** Creativity is necessarily a quality which pertains to

**All** Individuals!

Individuals!

Individuals!

**3** There are voices that seem anxious to destroy the free enterprise society and put a Marxist system in its place.

**5** Today those voices form a sizeable chorus in the Parliamentary Labour Party.

**6** A chorus which, aided and abetted by many Constituency Labour Parties

**All** seems to be growing in numbers.

**3** We have become bewitched with the idea of size.

**All** Size is the order of the day

**4** as we move into an economy where size seems to dwarf the individual, the home and the atmosphere there becomes more and more important

**5** The individual

**7** The individual

**All** Size deems to dwarf the individual

**Women** everything has become so big

**Men** Size is the order of the day

**Women** We have become bewitched with the idea of size.

**Men** What place is left for the individual?

**All** Individual!

Individual!

Individual!

**3** In our own homes we are indeed individuals of considerable importance

**All** Home is where the individual matters

**5** "Only connect"? Perhaps this is the first essential.

**6** It seems to me that our connections have come loose.

**All** I should like to do what I can to help repair them.

**Women** I think we have gone through a period when too many children and people have been given to understand

**Men** “I have a problem, it is the Government's job to cope with it!”

**Women** or

**3 Men** “I have a problem, I will go and get a grant to cope with it!”

**3 Men** “I am homeless, the Government must house me!”

**Women** and so they are casting their problems on society and who is society?

**All** There is no such thing!

**4** There are individual men and women and there are

**All** families

**5** That is a ridiculous argument.

**All** Look at it.

**Women** When individual talents are held back

**Men** the community is held back too.

**Women** Encourage the individual

**Men** and the community benefits.

*All clap.*

**3** A parent's success is shared by his family

**5** a pupil's by his school

**7** a soldier's by his regiment.

**All** A man may climb Everest for himself, but at the summit he plants his country's flag.

*All clap.*

**3** It is a great pleasure to be here in Rome

**All** we share many problems:

**2** inflation

**2** indebtedness

**2** falling living standards.

**4** But we also share common aspirations. Above all, a common belief in the value

**6** the spiritual value

**All** of individual human beings

**5** compassion depends upon what you and I, as an individual, are prepared to do. I remember my father telling me that at a very early age.

**5** I was brought up, let me remind you, in a religious environment which, by the standards of today, would seem very rigid.

**All** We attended a number of Church activities during the week.

**Men** We believed it was wrong to spend very much on personal pleasure.

**Women** We were taught always to make up our own minds and never to take the easy way

**3** What mattered fundamentally was Man's relationship to

**All** God

**3** and in the last resort this depended on the response of the individual soul to

**All** God's Grace.

**5** The individual!

**7** The individual!

**All** The individual!

**4** I confess that I always had difficulty with interpreting the Biblical precept to love our neighbours "as ourselves"

**4** The first Conservative Party Conference I attended was in 1946.

**All** People don't go out to work for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. They go out to work for their family, for their children, to help look after their parents. That's what they work for, and it's a very

(*Drowned by applause*)

**4** It is not selfish. It is not selfish to have an ambition.

**6** I set out our principles before we came into power so that people knew

**All** exactly

**6** what we stood for.

**3** Let me just try briefly to sum them up. It is the

**All** sanctity

**3** of

**All** The individual!

The individual!

The individual!

**3** and his accountability for the

**All** awe

**3** of his talents and abilities: the belief that

**All** liberty

**3** is a

**All** moral quality

**3** based on the

**All** Old and New Testament.

**4** Liberty

**4** Freedom

**All** The individual!

The individual!

The individual!

**5** We are all unequal.

**5** We believed it was wrong to spend very much on personal pleasure.

**7** We have not successfully rolled back the frontiers of the state in Britain only to see them reimposed at a European level

**7** We have become bewitched with the idea of size.

**All** We

have become

a grandmother.

**Principle sources** (full texts at http://www.margaretthatcher.org)

1968 Oct 11 Conservative Political Centre (CPC) Lecture ("What’s wrong with politics?")

1969 Feb 20 Article for *Daily Telegraph* ("Participation - in what?")

1969 Aug 29 Lecture to the European Female Union Assembly ("Economics and Progress")

1969 Oct 10 Speech to Conservative Party Conference

1975 Jan 30 Article for *Daily Telegraph* ("My Kind of Tory Party")

1975 Sep 15 Speech to the Institute of SocioEconomic Studies ("Let Our Children Grow Tall")

1975 Oct 10 Speech to Conservative Party Conference

1977 Jun 24 Speech on Europe ("Europe as I see it")

1978 Mar 30 Speech at St Lawrence Jewry (“I BELIEVE - A speech on Christianity and Politics”)

1979 Mar 28 House of Commons Statement [Her Majesty’s Government (Opposition Motion) (motion of confidence)]

1979 Jun 26 House of Commons Statement: [European Council (Strasbourg)]

1979 Oct 18 Winston Churchill Memorial Lecture ("Europe - the obligations of liberty")

1983 Jan 16 TV Interview for London Weekend Television *Weekend World* ("Victorian Values")

1986 Sep 4 Interview for *Esportare* (Italian Trade Ministry magazine)

1987 Sep 23 Interview for *Woman's Own* ("no such thing as society")

1988 Apr 28 Speech to Centre for Policy Studies (AGM)

1988 May 21 Speech to General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

1988 Oct 14 Speech to Conservative Party Conference

1992 Apr 27 Article for *Newsweek* (“Don’t undo my work”) *[no such thing as Majorism]*

1996 Jan 11 Keith Joseph Memorial Lecture ("Liberty and Limited Government")