

tape recorder

for mixed chorus

Gordon Williamson

text by Zoë Skoulding

tape recorder

reel to reel beginning with
your own voice returning un-
like itself heavier and
thicker in rustles and clicks
of words outside the head where
a life may be erased with
its own sound replaying in
another room relatives
freeze up in the occasion
addressing a future that
doesn't know them or a child
close to mic go on it's like
a telephone but it won't
say anything back hello

Zoë Skoulding

from *The Museum of Disappearing Sounds*, Seren Books
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www.zoeskoulding.co.uk

Duration: ca. 5'

Composed for the C4 Ensemble as part of the 2014 Composers Competition

Performance Notes:

1. Glissandi are continuous (ie. are to begin immediately as notated). The goal pitches in parentheses are approximate end points for the glissandi, showing how far to move over time. They are not intended to be audible arrival points.
2. Unless otherwise notated, all decrescendi are to niente, or to nothing.
3. ∇ indicates the lowest pitch for the singers. The women in bars 59-63 hum their highest, softest pitches. Both result in non-specific clusters of sound. In bars 44-45 and again in bar 63, glissandi are applied to these pitch extremes. In each case an approximate interval is asked for, each individual singer should aim to move up or down the given interval.
4. z indicates a glottal tremolo (as often used in Monteverdi).
5. Syllables in parentheses are not sung, they are there to provide the context for an isolated syllable or part of a word.
6. Some passages draw on overtone singing: the tenor solos in bars 4, 18-19 and 57-63, and the bass/baritone in bars 57-63. These don't call for specific overtones per se, but the very slow and deliberate movement between the notated vowels will, with practice, clearly sweep through various overtone partials.

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(2014)

$\bullet = 72$

mp *lunga* *mp*

Soprano
reel to reel *lunga* re -

Mezzo-Soprano
reel to reel *lunga* re -

Alto
reel to reel *lunga* re -

Tenor
mp *p* *lunga* *mp* *tutti*
be - gin o ee re -

Baritone
mp *lunga*
be - gin

Bass
p *pp* *lunga*
3
(begin)-ning with your own voice

5 *rit.* $\bullet = 48$

S
tur-ning

Mz.
tur-ning

A
tur-ning

T
8 tur - ning un - like it - self heav - i - er and thick -

Bar.
mp *mf*
(un)-like it - self heav - i - er and thick -

B
mf
it - self heav - i - er and thick -

19

3 = 72

S (tutti) *mp* own

Mz. (tutti) *f* e - rased *mp* its own

A (tutti) *mf* with *p* its own

T tutti *mf* (e) - rased *mp* sound

Bar.

B

24

♩ = 48

S *p* in a - no - ther room *mf* *pp* *sempre* tutti

Mz. *p* in a - no - ther room *mf* *pp* *sempre* tutti

A sound ah

T *p* mm *mp* solo in a - no - ther room *pp* *sempre* tutti

Bar. *mp* re - play - ing play - ing *pp* *sempre* ee

B *mp* re - play - ing mm *pp* *sempre* oh

28

S
ng mm ng

Mz.
mm mm mm

A
oh ah mm

T
8 mm ng mm

Bar.
ee ah oh ah

B
ee ah

accel.

32

S
mm solo clicks of words out-side the

Mz.
solo clicks clicks

A
solo in rus-tles and out-side the head

T
8 mm in rus-tles and

Bar.
(rising gliss, ca. major second)

B

(accel.)

♩ = 96

sol: *cresc.*

mf

sub. p half-whispered

36

(solo)

3

S
head³ out-side the head in rus-tles and clicks clicks of words out-side³ the

Mz.
(solo) clicks of words in rus-tles and clicks in rus-tles and clicks clicks

A
(solo) in rus-tles and clicks rus-tles and clicks out-side³ the head the head in rus-tles and clicks

T
p solo clicks of words words out-side the head clicks *tutti mp* a

Bar.
p solo clicks of words³ in rus-tles and clicks *tutti mp* where

B
(ca. major third)

39

♩ = 72

S
head³ the head

Mz.
tutti mp of words e - rased *mp* its

A
tutti p may be *p* with

T
8 life a life

Bar.
pp e - rased

B
mp life *pp* e - rased

44 *(tutti)*
mf *p*

S
own *mf* *p* re - play - ing

Mz.
mf *p* re - play - ing

A
mf *p* re - play - ing

T
8 *mp* *mp* sound in

Bar.
mp *mp* sound a - no - ther

B
mp *p* sound room

49 *pp* *p* *tutti: cresc.*

S
mm *pp* *p* re - la - tives freeze up ad - dress - ing fu -

Mz.
p re - la - tives freeze up ad - dress - ing fu -

A
pp *p* mm re - la - tives freeze up ad - dress - ing fu -

T
8 *p* room room re - la - tives freeze up ad - dress - ing fu -

Bar.
p room room re - la - tives freeze up ad - dress - ing fu -

B
p room room re - la - tives freeze up ad - dress - ing fu -

54 **accel.** (tutti cresc.) *mf* *tutti sub. p* $\bullet = 84$ $\bullet = 42$

S
ture know or child

Mz.
ture know or child

A
ture know or child

T
ture know or child free(ze)

Bar.
ture know or child mm

B
ture know or child freeze

pp

pp overtones on 'r' colored vowels

59 *ppp*

S
mm

Mz.
ppp
mm

A
ppp (ca. major second)
mm

T

Bar.
u → ee → u → mm

B
pp
mm → ee → u → mm

♩ = 72

64 *mp sempre*

S (oc) - ca - sion ad - dress - (ing) fu - ture does not know or a

Mz. (oc) - ca - sion ad - dress - (ing) fu - (ture) know them or a

A (oc) - ca - sion ad - dress - (ing) fu - (ture) does not know or a

T up in (oc) ca - sion (ad) - dress - ing fu - (ture) know them or a

Bar. up the oc - ca - sion (ad) - dress - ing fu - (ture) know them or

B up (oc) - ca - sion (ad) - dress - ing a fu - (ture) that know or

69 *p* *pp* *mp* *solo low whisper:* ♩ = 48

S child close to mic it's like a telephone but it won't say anything back

Mz. child close to mic it's like a telephone but it won't say anything back

A child close to mic go on

T child hel - lo

Bar. child

B child