

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)

$\bullet = 72$

Score for Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone, and Bass. The music is in 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures. The lyrics are: "reel to reel", "lunga", "re -", "be - gin", "o - ee re -", "p", "pp", "lunga", "solo", "tutti", "3", "(begin)-ning with your own voice".

Score for Soprano (S), Mezzo-Soprano (Mz.), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Baritone (Bar.), and Bass (B). The music is in 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures. The lyrics are: "tur-ning", "rit.", "mf", "mp", "mf", "it - self", "heav - i - er", "and thick -", "(un)-like", "it - self", "heav - i - er", "and thick -", "it - self", "heav - i - er", "and thick -".

♩ = 72

10

S *mp* un - like *p* and

Mz. *mp* it - self

A *mp* it - self *p* i - er

T *p* heav - i - er

Bar. *p* heav - i - er

B *p* heav - i - er

♩ = 96

15

S *pp* **solo* in rus-tles and clicks clicks of words out - side the head the head

Mz. *pp* **solo* thick - er (rr) in rus-tles and clicks in rus-tles and clicks clicks of words out - side

A *pp* **solo* thick - er (rr) out - side the head the head in rus-tles and clicks clicks of words

T *pp* thick - er (rr) *p solo* where rr

Bar. *pp* thick - er (rr) mm

B *pp* thick - er (rr)

* 3 soli: half whispered (tutti continues singing 'er' syllable but with strong r coloring). Tenor solo bars 18-19 moves through various overtones produces by shifting between strongly 'r' colored vowels.

19 $\text{♩} = 72$

S (tutti) *mp* own

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

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

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

Bar.

B

24 $\text{♩} = 48$

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

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

A *p* *pp* *sempre* sound

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

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

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

28

S ng mm ng

Mz. mm mm mm

A oh ah mm

T mm ng mm

Bar. ee ah oh ah

B ee ah

32

accel.

S mm solo clicks of words out-side the

Mz. solo clicks clicks

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

T mm in rus-tles and

Bar. (rising gliss, ca. major second)

B

(accel.) **sol:** *cresc.* **mf** $\text{♩} = 96$

36

S **(solo)** *sub. p half-whispered*
 head ³ out-side the head in rus-tles and clicks clicks of words out-side ³ the

Mz. **(solo)** *sub. p half-whispered*
 clicks of words in rus-tles and clicks in rus-tles and clicks clicks

A **(solo)** *sub. p half-whispered*
 in rus-tles and clicks rus-tles and clicks out-side ³ the head the head in rus-tles and clicks

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

Bar. **p solo** *tutti mp*
 clicks of words ³ in ³ rus-tles and clicks where

B *(ca. major third)*

39 $\text{♩} = 72$

S
 head ³ the head

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

A *tutti p* *p*
 may be with

T *p*
 life a life

Bar. *pp*
 e - rased

B *mp* *pp*
 life e - rased

44 (tutti) *mf* *p*

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

Mz. *mf* re - play - ing *p*

A *mf* re - play - ing *p*

T 8 *mp* sound *mp* in

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

B *mp* sound *p* room

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

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

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

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

T 8 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

solo p *overtone on 'r' colored vowels*

pp

59 **ppp**

S mm

Mz. **ppp** mm

A **ppp** mm (ca. major second)

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* *♩ = 48* *solo low whisper:*

S child *3* close to mic it's like a telephone but it won't say anything back

Mz. child *3* close to mic it's like a telephone but it won't say anything back

A child *3* close to mic go on

T child hel - lo

Bar. child

B child