

as curve beyond points to see

for flutes, mezzo, cello & speaker

gavin osborn
2016

for Trio Atem on our 10th birthday

& for Elizabeth, who commanded it

Notes

as *curve*...is a vertical score, read top to bottom.

on each page, instruments are assigned territories within the page, also progressing vertically:

- flute down the left-hand side
- cello down the right
- voices down the centre

central material for mezzo & speaker is distinguished by colour:

- mezzo material is **red** for vocalised elements, **green** for sung; <...> indicates inhalation
- speaker material is always black

vocal material is necessarily intertwined to enable bridging between spoken text & the rest of the matter; occasionally this breaks out into the two instrumental streams also.

the vocalists may repeat given phonemes any number of times.

the score is principally a text score, with much of the specifics of material left up to the players through individual & ensemble preparation. the intention is that although the nature of the piece remains broadly the same from performance to performance, actual sonic content can vary considerably - to this end performers should not attempt to fix their approach to any given element or interaction within the piece, & should look for alternative pathways either in preparation or in the performative moment.

exception: the given text is essentially fixed (i.e. should not be altered in performance), but its placement & means of delivery are determined by context in performance.

a text may be considered to continue until the next text, although silence is always one possible interpretation. texts joined by vertical lines have some developmental relationship. texts joined across parts by horizontal lines indicate a close relationship between elements played by those instruments.

live ensemble interaction via listening, reaction, etc is a key principle of the piece.

flute may double picc, alto, bass, etc - any specific scorings are noted in the score, but are flexible.

as curve through points to see

flute

voices

cello

it flutters exponentially into the 's'

it flutters exponentially into the 's'

sound
tattoos him like rain

hh^h n
huhh-<hah> dh

a pattering, comes, goes

a pattering, a brief rain

nn t't t
t t

a soft fluttering
stutters

darts, &
flashes into the light

multiplications

ch-ch
ch

scattered & tiny touches

ffh

whh whh whh whh
whh whh whh

soft wings in the darkness

c'

whh whh whh whh
whh whh whh

ih'

ft c' whh
whh whh whh

th-<hh> th-<fft>

hh-<ah>

moth speech
<mothspeech>

ch-ch
scattered & tiny touches

(lip, tongue
tiny sounds)

(& fade)

a patterning of wings

motes of dust & light

fibrillation

a whisper of moths

ch-ch
ch

scattered & tiny touches

something static emerges
splits
folds & unfolds

brittle, edging,
metal leaves corrode

your
your hand spread open
voice a flower in the stomach, petal is flame,
hand
terrain suddenly not yours
spread
etching carries the light,
stains & traces
open

nn

tch'

hh-hhaa

<haa>

softly, pleats & folds around
stasis & slow drift

slippage, refraction
edge & stain

an uncertainty,
fragmentation

proliferate exponentially

proliferate & infiltrate mezzo part

fl' ih' hh' s'uh k' o' d' ll' ss'h' b' f' whwhhwh ch i'y t'uh

hh-<hh> ah' h'eh

eddie & whorls
difficulty of navigating the rapids

...tumbled & tossed
turbulence, whirls, whorls & flurries
can you keep your balance w/o being submerged?

slippage
it unfixes, slides, glides
a little or a lot?
itself reflected in rippled water
where gaps appear

glitches
interruptions
it breaks down into pieces
slips, slides
the fingertip as measure
in contact, in motion,
long or short, dips & rises
clear sound of reflected light

panels & panels
settle into a folding, mirrored
plane

softens, becomes malleable
a kind of comfort?
a kind of ease

melts, softens, folds

folding planes
sliding through each other
blurring in/out of focus
settling

it's level
almost exactly the same
but beats as alive

its level
almost exactly the same
but beats, alive

body
body whirls
a face blurs out of reach
folds both towards & away

a n d
f o l d s
h h
u r
s s

fade (long) fade

<under the fingertips>
under the fingertips an instant translation
j e p u n

under the fingertips
translation & time

under the fingertips
ghosts & translations

(it's all in the touch
a haptic language
between you, the sound, the world)

(it's all touch
the haptic language
between you, the sound, the world)

f i n g e r t i p m u s i c

light

soft
slow
trickling
descent

luminous
moment

p-<ss>

<ss-p>

light collapses softly around you
a sleeping form
a sleeping form curled against the back of the knee
rise/fall of ribs, warm breath

light behind clouds
translucency
what is close
what floats on out

what it is
lightly draw a map of it
condense & evaporate

a map
condenses a map on the other side of the skin

fin.

fin.

fin.