

partial objects

Newton Armstrong

three women's voices
and electronic sounds

Notes for the first performance (October, 2016)

Each of the three vocal parts lies within the range E4-D5 and may be performed by any female voice type (i.e. soprano, mezzo, alto).

Phonemic notation

Where a letter or series of letters appear/s in square parentheses (e.g. i[f]), this serves only to provide an indication of the phoneme type of the unparenthesised letter/s. Parenthesised text should not be vocalised.

Breath marks

The breath symbol has a special meaning in this piece. As the vocal texture is mainly comprised of single sustained tones, breaths can and should be taken as necessary. The breath symbol may be taken to imply that the tone to which it applies may be shortened in duration with a degree of relative freedom. Even when singing tones of shorter duration (where breaths may not be necessary), there should be a clear separation between one event and the next if a breath mark is indicated.

Dynamics / expression

The composite image comprised of vocal and electronic strands shifts and changes over the course of the piece. The vocal texture should be relatively constant in feel, expressionless and 'disinterested' in delivery, and without any obvious sense of theatre. The voices should be as blended with one another as possible, but no attempt should be made to blend the voices with the electronic sounds.

Dynamics are somewhat notional, and we'll experiment with these in rehearsal. Ideally, the voices should be very quiet, but I'm mindful of the potential physical strain that can go along with this, and can balance the electronics accordingly.

There should be a slight emphasis on the articulation of each new tone, with the composite vocal texture creating a sense of an almost machine-like, quasi-periodic hocketed rhythm

Conducting

The piece is conducted, but the conductor's gestures should be as unobtrusive as possible, and should not obviously project a sense of metrical emphasis. Exact synchronisation with the electronic sounds is not critical.

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① ♩ = 60

1 *p* [a]nd i[f] if

2 *p* a[nd] [a]nd [a]nd and

3 *p* a[nd] a[nd] nah
(no[thing])

5 if nah and thi[ng]
(no[thing])

2 if ng nah and

3 nah thi[ng] if

9 if and thi[ng] if ng

2 thing nah a[nd] thi[ng]

3 ng nah if thing nah

13 if ng nah a[nd] nah

2 a[nd] thi[ng] if ng if

3 a[nd] nah and thi[ng]

17

1 and now and if ng
2 ng and now and thi[ng]
3 [a]nd thi[ng] now and now nah

Detailed description: This system contains measures 17 through 20. It features three staves of music. The first staff has lyrics: 'and now and if ng'. The second staff has lyrics: 'ng and now and thi[ng]'. The third staff has lyrics: '[a]nd thi[ng] now and now nah'. The music includes several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) and various note values including quarter and eighth notes.

21

1 and now nah and nah
2 now and if ng if
3 and now and thi[ng] [a]nd

Detailed description: This system contains measures 21 through 24. It features three staves of music. The first staff has lyrics: 'and now nah and nah'. The second staff has lyrics: 'now and if ng if'. The third staff has lyrics: 'and now and thi[ng] [a]nd'. The music includes triplet markings and various note values.

25

1 ng i[f] ng ng
2 thi[ng] now thi[ng] thi[ng]
3 nah and nah

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25 through 28. It features three staves of music. The first staff has lyrics: 'ng i[f] ng ng'. The second staff has lyrics: 'thi[ng] now thi[ng] thi[ng]'. The third staff has lyrics: 'nah and nah'. The music includes triplet markings and various note values.

29

1 thi[ng]
2 nah and
3 nah i[f]

Detailed description: This system contains measures 29 through 32. It features three staves of music. The first staff has lyrics: 'thi[ng]'. The second staff has lyrics: 'nah and'. The third staff has lyrics: 'nah i[f]'. The music includes triplet markings and various note values.

2

1
now and now and

2
and now and

3
and now and now

Detailed description: This system contains measures 1 through 36. It features three staves. Staff 1 has lyrics 'now and now and' with a triplet of eighth notes above the first 'now' and another triplet above the second 'now'. Staff 2 has lyrics 'and now and' with a triplet of eighth notes above the second 'now'. Staff 3 has lyrics 'and now and now' with triplets of eighth notes above the first and third 'now'.

37

1
now now and

2
now and now

3
and now and now

Detailed description: This system contains measures 37 through 40. Staff 1 has lyrics 'now now and' with a long slur over the first two 'now's and a fermata over the final 'and'. Staff 2 has lyrics 'now and now' with a triplet of eighth notes above the first 'now'. Staff 3 has lyrics 'and now and now' with a triplet of eighth notes above the first 'now'.

41

1
now and

2
now

3
now

Detailed description: This system contains measures 41 through 44. Staff 1 has lyrics 'now and' with a long slur over the first 'now' and a triplet of eighth notes above the 'and'. Staff 2 has lyrics 'now' with a triplet of eighth notes above the word. Staff 3 has lyrics 'now' with a triplet of eighth notes above the word.

45

1
now and

2
and now

3
and now

Detailed description: This system contains measures 45 through 48. Staff 1 has lyrics 'now and' with a long slur over the first 'now' and a fermata over the final 'and'. Staff 2 has lyrics 'and now' with a triplet of eighth notes above the first 'and'. Staff 3 has lyrics 'and now' with a triplet of eighth notes above the first 'and'.

3

1 now i[f] i[f]

2 [a]nd [a]nd and

3 a[nd] a[nd] now

Detailed description: This system contains three staves of music. Staff 1 (top) has lyrics 'now', 'i[f]', and 'i[f]'. Staff 2 (middle) has lyrics '[a]nd', '[a]nd', and 'and'. Staff 3 (bottom) has lyrics 'a[nd]', 'a[nd]', and 'now'. The music features a melodic line with a slur over the first two notes of each staff and a triplet of eighth notes at the end of each staff.

1 if nah and nah

2 if now and

3 thing if now

Detailed description: This system contains three staves of music. Staff 1 (top) has lyrics 'if', 'nah', 'and', and 'nah'. Staff 2 (middle) has lyrics 'if', 'now', and 'and'. Staff 3 (bottom) has lyrics 'thing', 'if', and 'now'. The music features a melodic line with a slur over the first two notes of each staff and a triplet of eighth notes at the end of each staff.

1 if and nah if thi[ng]

2 now and nah

3 if now ng

Detailed description: This system contains three staves of music. Staff 1 (top) has lyrics 'if', 'and', 'nah', 'if', and 'thi[ng]'. Staff 2 (middle) has lyrics 'now', 'and', and 'nah'. Staff 3 (bottom) has lyrics 'if', 'now', and 'ng'. The music features a melodic line with a slur over the first two notes of each staff and a triplet of eighth notes at the end of each staff.

1 nah thing thing

2 if nah and nah nah

3 nah if if

Detailed description: This system contains three staves of music. Staff 1 (top) has lyrics 'nah', 'thing', and 'thing'. Staff 2 (middle) has lyrics 'if', 'nah', 'and', 'nah', and 'nah'. Staff 3 (bottom) has lyrics 'nah', 'if', and 'if'. The music features a melodic line with a slur over the first two notes of each staff and a triplet of eighth notes at the end of each staff.

65

1 if now and now now

2 now and now and if

3 now and now and

69

1 if now now

2 now now thing thing

3 and nah nah if nah

73

1 ng nah nah nah

2 thi[ng] now ng

3 and thing thi[ng]

77

1 nah nah

2 ng ng

3 thi[ng] thi[ng] thing

④

Musical score for measures 84-87, featuring three staves (1, 2, 3) with lyrics and triplets. Staff 1: more, more, n, more. Staff 2: n, move, move. Staff 3: fi[ne], fi[ne], fine, fi[ne].

Musical score for measures 87-91, featuring three staves (1, 2, 3) with lyrics and triplets. Staff 1: n, move, a[rm]. Staff 2: move. Staff 3: sto[ne], sto[ne], fine, a[rm].

Musical score for measures 92-95, featuring three staves (1, 2, 3) with lyrics and triplets. Staff 1: fi[ne], a[rm]. Staff 2: fine, n, fine. Staff 3: arm, n, n.

Musical score for measures 96-99, featuring three staves (1, 2, 3) with lyrics and triplets. Staff 1: a[rm], stone, a[rm], arm, sha[pe]. Staff 2: stone, a[rm], arm, a[rm]. Staff 3: stone, a[rm], arm, arm.

100

1 stone n n fi[ne]

2 arm arm more more

3 a[rm] move fi[ne] fi[ne] n

Detailed description: This system contains measures 100 through 103. Staff 1 has lyrics 'stone', 'n', 'n', and 'fi[ne]'. Staff 2 has lyrics 'arm', 'arm', 'more', and 'more'. Staff 3 has lyrics 'a[rm]', 'move', 'fi[ne]', 'fi[ne]', and 'n'. The music features several triplet markings over eighth notes.

104

1 sha[pe] more fi[ne] sha[pe] n more

2 n sha[pe] n more sha[pe] fi[ne]

3 sto[ne] n fi[ne] n

Detailed description: This system contains measures 104 through 107. Staff 1 has lyrics 'sha[pe]', 'more', 'fi[ne]', 'sha[pe]', 'n', and 'more'. Staff 2 has lyrics 'n', 'sha[pe]', 'n', 'more', 'sha[pe]', and 'fi[ne]'. Staff 3 has lyrics 'sto[ne]', 'n', 'fi[ne]', and 'n'. The music features several triplet markings over eighth notes.

108

1 sha[pe] fi[ne] n sha[pe] fi[ne]

2 move n n

3 n more n n more

Detailed description: This system contains measures 108 through 112. Staff 1 has lyrics 'sha[pe]', 'fi[ne]', 'n', 'sha[pe]', and 'fi[ne]'. Staff 2 has lyrics 'move', 'n', and 'n'. Staff 3 has lyrics 'n', 'more', 'n', 'n', and 'more'. The music features several triplet markings over eighth notes.

113

1 n

2 n n

3 n n

Detailed description: This system contains measures 113 through 116. Staff 1 has lyrics 'n'. Staff 2 has lyrics 'n' and 'n'. Staff 3 has lyrics 'n' and 'n'. The music features several triplet markings over eighth notes.

5

1
ah ah ah ah ah ah ah

2
ah ah ah ah ah ah ah

3
ah ah ah ah ah ah ah

121

1
ah

2
ah ah ah

3
ah ah

6

1
ee ee ee ee ee

2
ee ee ee ee ee

3
ee ee ee ee ee

127

1
ee ee ee

2
ee ee ee ee

3
ee ee ee