

A photograph of a residential street in winter. The ground is covered in a thick layer of snow, with large mounds of snow piled up along the sidewalks. Bare trees line the street, their branches silhouetted against a pale, overcast sky. In the background, there are multi-story apartment buildings. A silver car is parked on the left side of the street. The overall atmosphere is quiet and serene.

on the sweet ephemerality
of meaning

coral douglas
2023

performance notes

equipment

Ableton Live

Laptop

Audio Interface (8in/6out)

6 condenser microphones

(L&R condenser for piano)

(2 condensers for B. Cl.)

(1 condenser for violin)

(1 condenser for cello)

4 in-ears

2 loudspeakers

Electric piano with MIDI capability

Kalimba

Tape player

Cassette tape

2 e-bows

routing

Channel 1(&2) - MIDI e-piano

Channel 3 - Clarinet neck

Channel 4 - Clarinet bell

Channel 5&6 - Piano L&R

Channel 7 - Violin

Channel 8 - Cello

electronics

this piece employs fixed media as well as live electronics.

these tracks are contained in an Ableton file.

one of the presets used is Waves' Doppler effect.

speaking

the piece ends with text,
to be spoken by the ensemble.

players should speak when they feel led;
this aleatoric freedom is facilitated through broad time ranges.

the clarinet and violin players have a call and response role.
these players should attempt to closely follow one another.

abbreviations

MST - multi sul tasto ; **MSP** multi sul ponticello

CLB - col legno battuto ; **XSB** - extra slow bow

FLZ - fluttertongue

performance notes

graphic key (strings)



- Circular bowing
- The bow passes in a vertical motion to the string, then a clear tone is produced; when the bow moving horizontal to the string, a scratchy 'non' tone is produced



- Overpressure (in between norm. and scratch)

"glitch"

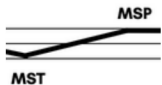
- A nasty, distorted sound as determined by the player



- Ricochet, wherein the integer indicates number of bounces



- Sul pont scratchiness, as detailed [in this linked video](#)



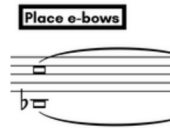
- Lateral bowing, from fingerboard to bridge, as detailed [in this linked video](#)

clicks (randomize rhythm)



- Draw the bow slowly and with heavy pressure to create semi-periodic clicks of bow friction

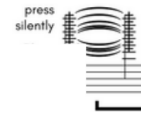
graphic key (piano + clarinet)



- quickly placing an e-bow on the piano requires dexterity and practice; in case of extra time needed, e-bow passages include buffer room to "get in" to the sound. in other words, no worries and also thanks!



- When striking piano strings with a mallet, use sustain pedal, aim for the center of the area between beams



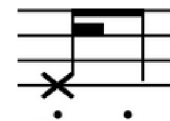
- Depress notes silently, for use with sostenuto pedal



- On clarinet, these noteheads indicate to play air sounds, or with more breath than pitch

"glitch"

- A nasty, distorted sound as determined by the player



- A key click with (both) notated attacks and releases is indicated by an x notehead followed by a beam



- Multiphonics are taken from Heather Roche's blog;
- In order, the multiphonics included are #156 and #79

text

we were walking up the parking deck
sweat-heavy, laughing,
cinammon, your eyes are close,
filling my lungs, in between my fingernails,
it does not wash with soap.
permeable, meek,
an unfortunate mascara stain on the carpet of my third apartment
where i'd replaced the blinds
and hung 934 pictures of my grandfather
wish upon a star.

let myself feel this time
the softness behind
your shoulder blades,
buried knives,
safe, warm,
so simple,
to just,
be
here like this.
i love you.

Transposed

on the sweet ephemerality of meaning

Coral Douglas

(♩ = 60) *subtle, shimmering*

Place e-bows before beginning

extremely airy → pitched pitched → airy, but mostly quiet

ppp *fp* *ppp*

hold notes with sostenuto, then gently hold and release sustain pedal ad lib;
let sound become foreground and then disappear;
repeat (out of time) until next cue

Sostenuto SUSTAIN

MSP

ppp *fp_{effort}* *ppp* *p* *fp_{effort}*

MST

ppp *p* *fp_{effort}*

MSP

ppp *p* *fp_{effort}*

Compression: Delay: Distortion/Drive: EQ: Reverb: Misc (Doppler/Vocoder):

Colorado mountain wind

mf

0:00 0:10 0:20 0:30

4

B. Cl. *airy* → *pitched* *pitched* → *airy*

ppp *fp* *ppp*

Pno. **Remove e-bows** **To e-piano**

SUSTAIN
Sostenuto

Vln. MSP

ppp *fp_{effort}* *ppp* → *p* *fp_{effort}* *ppp* → *p* *fp_{effort}*

Vc. MST MSP

ppp → *p* *fp_{effort}* *ppp* → *p* *fp_{effort}*

Live FX

Fixed Media

(wind and footsteps in fresh Colorado snow)

0:30 0:40 0:50 1:00

A *mysterious*

♩. = 90 (♩ = 270)

7

B. Cl.

El. Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

Live FX

Fixed Media

ff > *f* > *mf* *ff* > *f* > *mf* *ff* > *f* > *mf*

SUSTAIN SUSTAIN SUSTAIN

norm. 4 4 4 overpressure, with pitch

ff *mf* *f* *sfz*

molto flautando

fp < *sfz* *fp* < *sfz* *fp* < *sfz* *sfz* overpressure, with pitch

Compression:

Drive:

Reverb:

strange, otherworldly electronic groove

f

disoriented

10

B. Cl. *< ff > f > mf* *< ff > f > mf* *< ff > f > mf* *mf* bend bend bend

El. Pno. SUSTAIN SUSTAIN SUSTAIN

Vln. *molto flautando* *sfz* *mf* *sfz* *mf* *sfz* *mf* *sfz* *overpressure, with pitch*

Vc. *molto flautando* *fp* *sfz* *fp* *sfz* *fp* *sfz* *fp* *sfz* *overpressure, with pitch* *sfz*

Live FX Compression: Delay: Drive: Reverb:

Fixed Media

B romantic

14 growl, nasty

"glitch"

B. Cl. *sfz* *sfz*

El. Pno. SUSTAIN

Vln. overpressure, with pitch *sfz* "glitch" *sfz*

Vc. overpressure, with pitch *sfz* "glitch" *sfz*

Live FX Compression: Delay: Drive: EQ: Reverb: Temperament Change:

Fixed Media

18 "glitch" "glitch" "glitch"

B. Cl. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

El. Pno.

Vln. "glitch" "glitch" overpressure, with pitch *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Vc. "glitch" "glitch" overpressure, with pitch *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Live FX
 Reverb:
 Temperament:

Fixed Media

thunder

C ♩ = 180 (♩ = 90 or ♩ = 60)

emotionally detached

21

B. Cl. *f*

El. Pno. *f*

Vln. *mf* *mf* *fp* *mf*

Vc. *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *fp* *mf*

swung, sweetly, as if singing to yourself

Live FX

EQ:

Reverb:

Temperament:

Fixed Media

rain

dreamlike

To Clarinet

29

Cl.

Musical staff for Clarinet (Cl.) showing rests in 4/8, 3+2/8, 4/8, 3+2/8, and 4/8 time signatures.

El. Pno.

Musical staff for Electric Piano (El. Pno.) with dynamics *mp*, *p*, and *p*. Includes a triplet of eighth notes and a slur over a quarter note.

Vln.

Musical staff for Violin (Vln.) with dynamics *mf* and *pp*. Includes the instruction "swung, sweetly, as if singing to yourself; flautando" and "norm.".

Vc.

Musical staff for Viola (Vc.) with dynamics *sfz* and *mp < f*. Includes the instruction "swung, sweetly, as if singing to yourself; flautando" and a triplet of eighth notes.

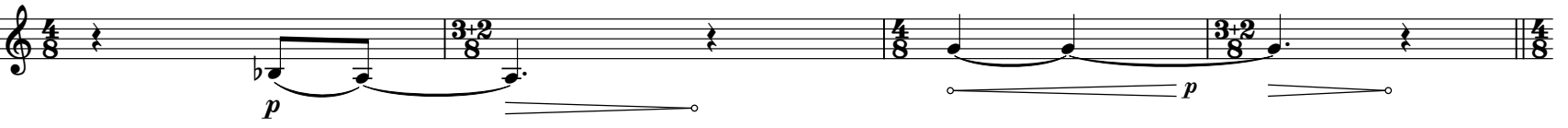
Live FX

Control lines for Live FX, including "Reverb:" and "Temperament:".

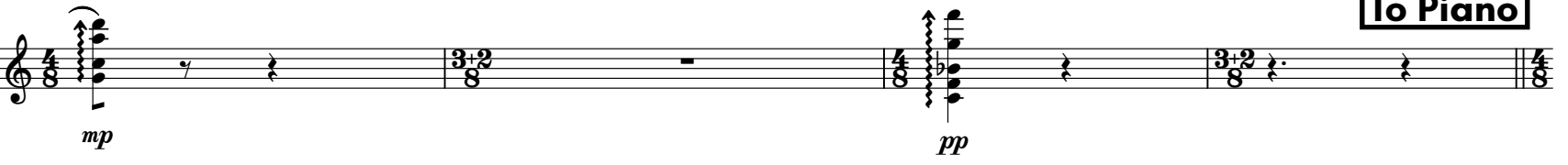
Fixed Media

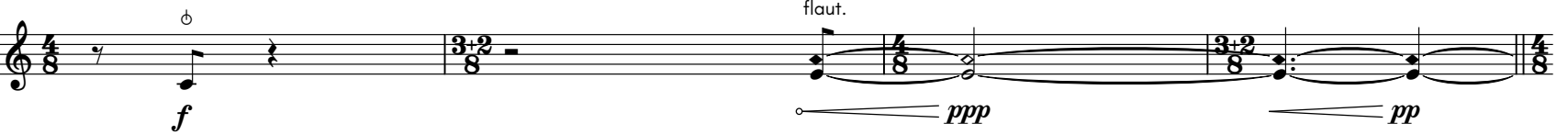
Control lines for Fixed Media.

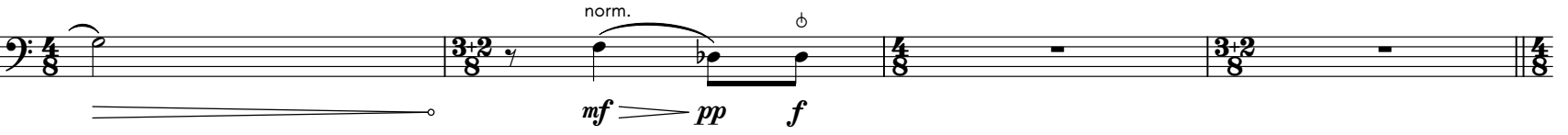
33

Cl. 

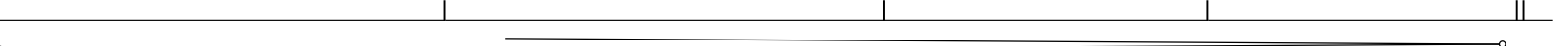
To Piano

El. Pno. 

Vln. 

Vc. 

Live FX 

Fixed Media 

rain

D *dynamically sensitive and hyperbolic*

37 rit. $\text{♩} = 60$

Cl. *ppp* barely louder than cello

Vln. normal pressure gradually slow bow → normal pressure extremely slow bow → heavy bow pressure
mf *f*

Vc. norm. bow speed → very fast bow speed
ppppp barely heard *mp*

Live FX
 Delay: —
 Reverb: —
 Doppler: —

Fixed Media
 "All areas within the terminal building are designated as smoke-free. Thank you for your cooperation."
 JFK, 2022
 thunder

44

harmonic glissando

Cl.

INSIDE: hand dampen strings

Pno.

lightly trigger resonance

MSP slow, heavy bow with lightly fingered tremolo, gradually wider and more random

Vln.

heavy bow pressure

Vc.

Compression:

Delay:

Drive:

Reverb:

Doppler:

Live FX

Fixed Media

key click bend
47
click release
air sounds with vowel change
"ah" - "ee" - "ah" - "ee" - "ah"

Cl.

f ad lib dynamic contour

Pno.

INSIDE:
hand dampening strings

Sostenuto

pp *fp* *pp*

SUSTAIN

Place e-bows

MSP

Vln.

ppp *fp*_{effort} *ppp* *p* *fp*_{effort}

Vc.

MSP

pp *fp* *pp* *p* *fp*_{effort}

Live FX

Compression:
Delay:
Drive:
EQ:
Reverb:

Fixed Media

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 47-51. The Clarinet (Cl.) part features a melodic line with dynamic markings from *f* to *pp* and performance instructions like 'key click', 'bend', 'click release', and 'air sounds with vowel change'. The Piano (Pno.) part includes 'INSIDE: hand dampening strings' and 'Sostenuto' markings. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) parts have dynamic markings such as *ppp*, *fp*_{effort}, and *p*, along with 'MSP' (Musical Structure Point) markers. A 'Live FX' section at the bottom shows parameters for Compression, Delay, Drive, EQ, and Reverb. The 'Fixed Media' section is empty.

E *delicately* *intensifying* *sweetly*

52 norm. flz. growl flz. growl

Cl. *pp* *mp* *fp* *p* *mf* *ff* *mp_{sub.}* *f* *mp*

Pno.

gently hold and release SUSTAIN pedal ad lib;
let sound become foreground and then disappear;
repeat (out of time) until m. 59

SUSTAIN

Sost.

Vln.

heavy bow gradual increase in bow pressure norm.

ppp *mf* *f_{effort}* *p* *ff* *mp_{sub.}* *f* *mp*

Vc.

heavy bow gradual increase in bow pressure norm.

ppp *mf* *f_{effort}* *p* *ff* *mp_{sub.}* *f* *mp*

Live FX

Compression:

Reverb:

Fixed Media

n

56

Cl. *mp* *pp* *f* *ppp* *p* sneak back in; pitched air

Pno. *Sost.* *p* **To Kalimba**

Vln. *mp* *pp* *ff* *mf* *pp* slow bow *gliss.*

Vc. *mp* *pp* *f* *ff* *pp* slow bow →

Live FX **Compression:** **Reverb:**

Fixed Media **waves, from the dock**

F *wistful, though unsure of when the moment ended*



61

Cl. *p*

Kal. out of time; improvise using these pitches at any point further if you feel led
(p)

Vln. *gliss.* XSB

Vc. XSB VERY slow, quiet trem slightly faster trem normal speed trem *om om om p*

Live FX
Compression: 
Reverb: 

Fixed Media
(waves and tape hiss) "...wish upon a star..."

laboriously

65

Cl. *bend to lowest note* *gliss.* *p* *mf* *f* *ff* *fff* *mf* *mp* *norm.*

Kal. **To Piano** *p* *strike with mallet* *fff* *f* *fff* *pp* *mp*

Vln. *norm.* *f* *fp* *f* *sf* *fff* **CONTINUE**

Vc. *no trem* *XSB* *f* *gliss.* *f* *fff* *gliss.* *scratch tone with lateral bow scrapes* *(fff)*

Live FX **Compression:** **Drive:** **Reverb:**

Fixed Media **noise**

69

Cl. *p*

Pno. *p* *mf* *pp*

press silently

Sostenuto ad infinitum (place weight)

Vln. *mp* *mf* *f_{effort}* *ff*

norm.

scratch tone (no pitch)

f

Vc. *mp* *p* *mf_{effort}* *fp*

molto flautando

Live FX

Compression: _____

Drive: _____

Reverb: _____

Fixed Media

"Why don't you say..."

"Just follow your dream!"

(water noises)

distortion send

G trying to communicate something very specific

73 *extremely jazzy and swung*

Cl. *mf* *f* *f* *mp*

Pno. strike with mallet sim. **SPOKEN: *ff* joyful**
 we were walk-ing up... the park-ing deck

Vln. (no pitch) (very little pitch) (no pitch) *gliss.* *ff* *fff* *mp* **XSB** → **clicks** (randomize rhythm)
LATERAL BOWING: MSP (bridge) MST MSP →

Vc. scratch tone (no pitch) (very little pitch) (no pitch) *gliss.* *f* *ff* *fff* *mp* **XSB** → **clicks** (randomize rhythm)
LATERAL BOWING: MSP (bridge) MST MSP →

Live FX Compression: Drive: EQ: Reverb:

Fixed Media (the water sounds like it's screaming :()
 water reverb

H extremely tenderly

77 *reflective*

Cl. *p* *mf* *mf*

Daniel *mf* *wistful*
sweat heav - y laugh - ing

Pno. *extremely tenderly*
p *mf*
SUSTAIN

Vln. *pizz.* *mp* *CLB* *f* *effort* *pizz.* *p* *pizz.* *mf* *p* *arco* *ppp*

Vc. *pizz.* *mp* *CLB* *f* *effort* *pizz.* *p* *arco* *mf* *ppp*

Live FX
Delay: 
Reverb: 

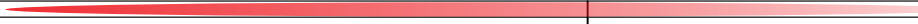

Fixed Media
water reverb

81

Cl. *p* *gliss.* *mp* lovingly stage-whispered
your eyes are close

Vln. *mp* lovingly stage-whispered
cin - a - mmon

Vc. flautando, shimmering *ppp* accel. to trem. decel. from trem.

Live FX
Delay:  

Fixed Media **normal water sounds**

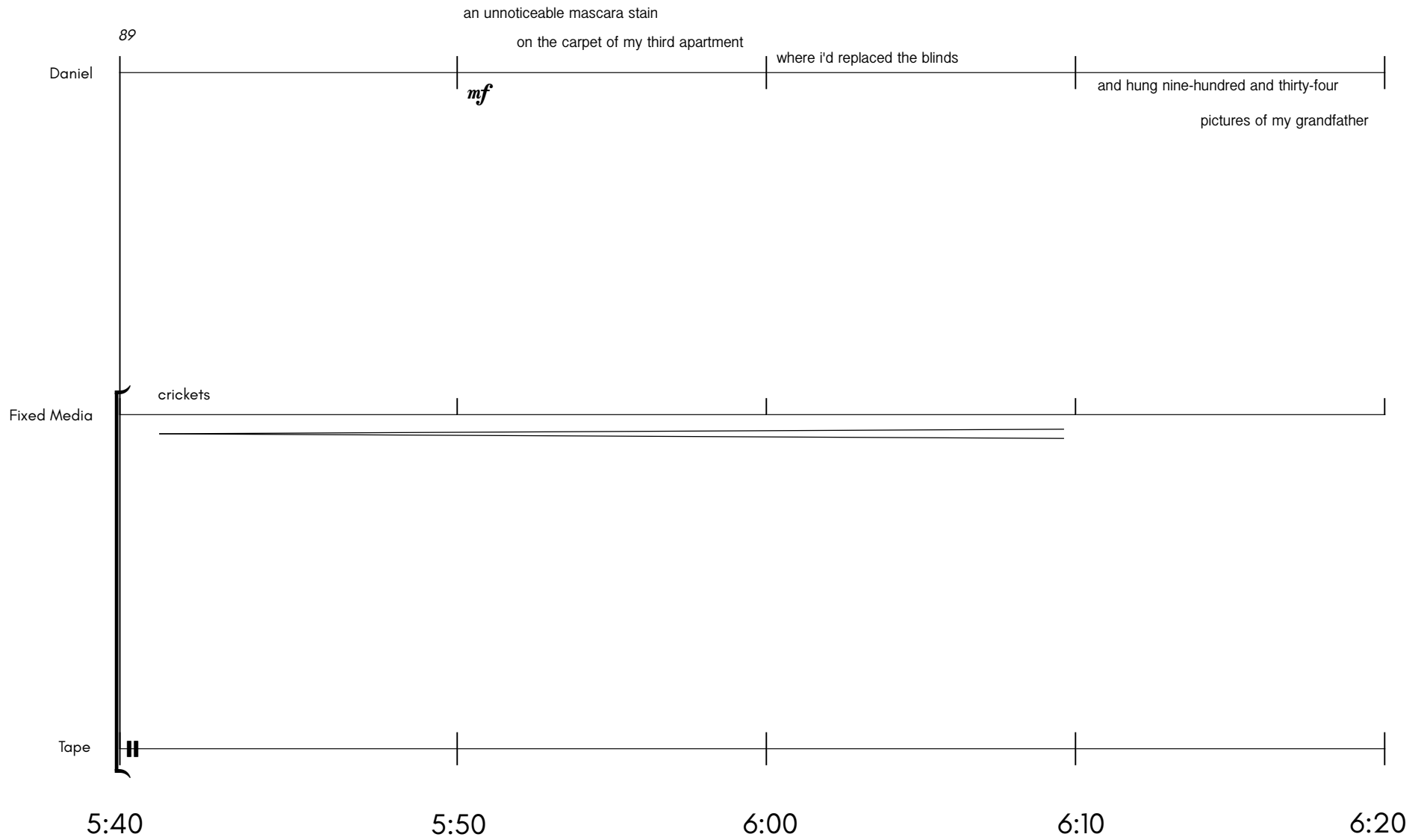
85

Ford
 Daniel
 Erica/Matheus
 Iva
 Fixed Media
 Tape

5:00 5:10 5:20 5:30 5:40

mp *mf* *mf* *mf* *mp*

Filling my lungs - in between my fingernails
 permeable - meek
 The heat speaks no words when it enters
 It does not wash with soap
 Filling my lungs - in between my fingernails
 permeable - meek
 PRESS PLAY ON TAPE MACHINE
 increase volume until audible for next 30 seconds
 you were playing
 in your old car
 fill in the blank
 normal water sounds



speak simultaneously, but gently;
channel your own experience:

repeat your chosen phrase sparingly,
become present as the mood shifts:

93

Ford
wish upon a star - maybe the moon
p

Daniel
buried knives, warm, so simple
cinammon the kindest eyes
mp *pp*

Erica/Matheus
wish upon a star - maybe the moon
p

Iva
let myself feel, this time, the softness
behind your shoulder blades
p *mf*
so warm being here me and you
so simple
pp

Fixed Media

Tape

6:20 6:30 6:40 6:50 7:00

fill in the blank

fill in the blank

fill in the blank


fill in the blank

fill in the blank with

"thank you"	"i'm so happy"
"i love you"	"be with me"
"just like this"	"so simple"

97

Ford (repeat phrase, increasingly sparingly) →

Daniel  lightly brush hand over high sostenuto strings; repeat leisurely 3-4 times, always quieter
mp ————— *pp*


Erica/Matheus (repeat phrase, increasingly sparingly) →

Iva (repeat phrase, increasingly sparingly) →

Fixed Media ————— ○ —————

Tape ————— tape clicks off

7:00 7:10 7:20 7:30 7:40

p ————— *pppp*  sim. (2-3 times, as delicate as possible while still remaining audible)