

Medium

*for
Singer-Actress, Audio and Images*

Dedicated to Meg Sheppard

Bruce Pennycook: Music & Images

Tessa McWatt: Text

M. Ballora, B. Pennycook: Software

Montreal 12/97

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Music and Images: Bruce Pennycook
Text: Tessa McWatt
Software: Mark Ballora, Bruce Pennycook
Post-Production, Enhanced CD Production: Oles Protsidym

Performance Requirements

Medium CD-ROM
amplified voice (wireless, head-mounted microphone preferable)
audio output from CD player or CD-Rom drive (2 channel, stereo)
mixer (voice, stereo audio in; stereo out)
Macintosh Computer (CD-Rom, System 7.6, 32 Mbytes DRAM,
digital projector and rear projection screen

optional performance - voice mic, stereo audio CD and sound system (no image projection system)

Stage Layout

rear-projection of computer images
screen 4' behind and 4' above soloist
tight spot light on vocalist, black elsewhere in hall
full blackout in hall essential

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Program Notes

This work is a setting of the first two stanzas of the poem, *Medium*, by Canadian poet, Tessa McWatt. I have attempted to reflect the sensuous, highly personal language in both the electroacoustic materials and the images. *Medium* is dedicated to my friend, actress-singer Meg Sheppard whose dedication to the interpretation of new musical styles and her compelling stage-presence has inspired the work. I am grateful to Meg for the vocal materials used in the audio components and to an un-named Turkish instrumentalist whose strange techniques appear briefly between the movements. All other materials were performed, processed and mixed by the composer. The photographs were taken with 35mm and digital cameras then computer processed by the composer. The images are controlled by the audio tracks using a novel Lingo program written by Mark Ballora. Director software was developed by Ballora and Pennycook.

The work is in two continuous movements: “I can be played” and “I can be moulded”.

Biographical Notes

Bruce Pennycook (b. 1949) has been a professor of music at McGill University in Montreal since 1987. His works can be heard on compact disks and radio broadcasts.

Recordings

Title	Track	Publisher
<i>Transmutations</i> . New Music from the Americas - Vol. 3. 1 Sheppard, voice; alcides lanza, piano & electronics. <i>comme si l'hydrogène-the desert speaks</i> . Vivienne Spiteri, harpsichord.	Praescio-VII: piano...and then some. 14:00 Praescio-III: the desert speaks. (11:00)	eSp-9601-CD J&W CD931
<i>ZODIAQUE - ZODIAC</i> . Jean-Guy Boisvert. Clarinet.	<i>PRAESCIO-IV</i> . (11:45)	SNE-586-CD.
<i>GEMS: Before the Freeze</i>	<i>Praescio-I</i> (9:00)	McGill 750038-2
<i>Computer Music</i> (Selections from the 1981 Intl. Computer Music Conference)	<i>Speeches for Dr. Frankenstein</i> (13:00)	CDCM
Computer Music from Colgate, Vol. 1	<i>if carillons grew wings</i>	Redwood ES-10


Medium

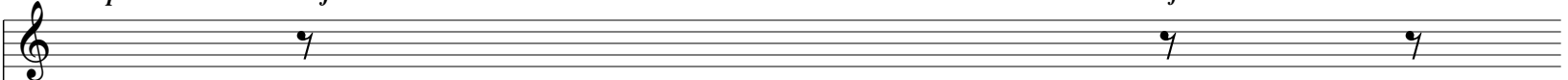
for Meg Sheppard

B. Pennycook 11/96

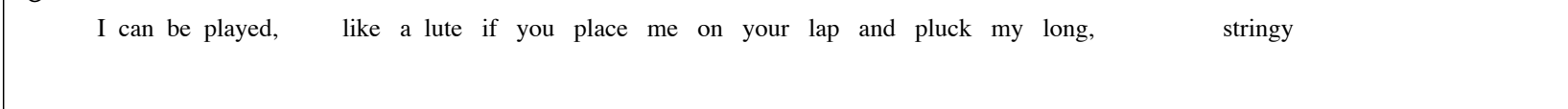
Text: T. McWatt

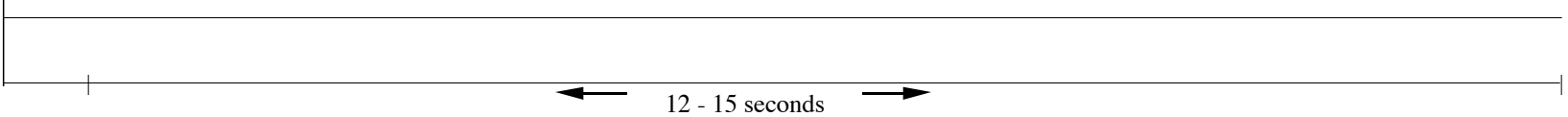
I. I can be played ...


spoken *breif* *breif* 

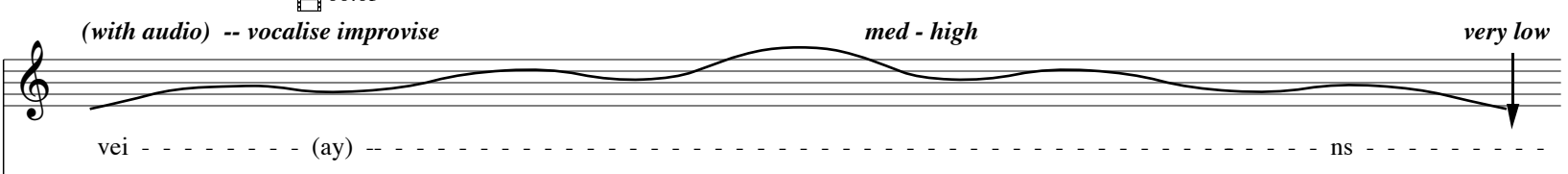


Voice: I can be played, like a lute if you place me on your lap and pluck my long, stringy

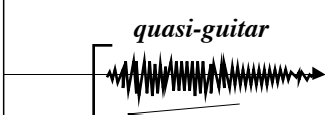
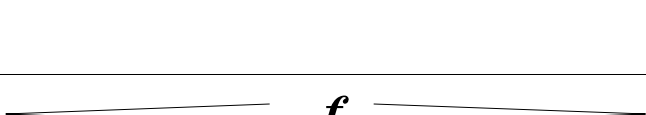

Audio: 

Time: 


 00:05
(with audio) -- vocalise improvise *med - high* *very low*

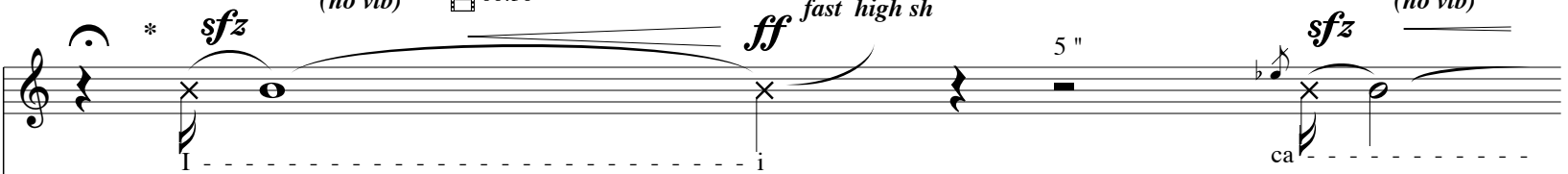


Voice: vei - - - - - (ay) - - - - - ns

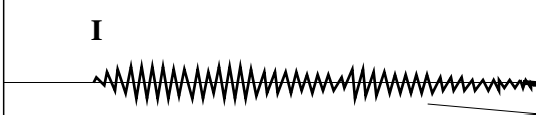

Audio: *quasi-guitar*  *f*  

Time: 0:00 5" 0:05 0:20

 00:30 *ff fast high sh* *sfz* *(no vib)*



Voice: *I* *ca*

Audio:  

Time: 5" 0:25 8" 0:33 5" 0:38 0:40

* Suggested pitch but must remain constant in this section.

00:46

ff (sim) 2" f fp + vib

Voice

a n be play

Audio

sim play

Time

0:40 0:44 0:46 0:48

00:50 gliss, descend 6" 01:06 whisper, varied 3-5 x's

Voice

(ay) ed like a lute

Audio

sim play me like a lute play

Time

0:48 0:54 0:55 1:00 1:08 1:10 1:15

01:16 5" sung, accel... sfz (no vib)

Voice

like a lute if you pla

Audio

p sim. sim. mf

Time

1:15 1:18 1:20 1:22 1:24

Medium 3

01:35 coyly, varied 01:37 fade 01:43 sfz no vib sfz no vib

ff *mf* *sfz* *no vib* *sfz* *no vib*

Voice (a) - - - ce me on your lap pla - - - ce me - - -

Audio *gtr.* play place me

Time 1:24 1:28 1:40 1:41 1:48

01:51 sfz (no vib) 01:58 sfz (+ vib) *p accel.* *molto*

Voice pla - - - ce me - - - on your lap and

Audio hands (sim) *fade* veins

Time 1:48 1:52 2:00 2:02

02:06 *ff* 02:12 *p*

Voice pluck my long stringy veins

Audio (veins) thoughts *mp*

Time 2:02 2:13 2:20

02:22 *spoken (gently)* *sim* *p*

Voice

You can know me like you know a song continuo basso ritornello || : continuo, basso, ritornello : ||

Audio

Time 2:20 2:30 2:40 2:50

02:53 *ff* *forcefully* *(stretched speech)* *

Voice

Improvise, im - - - pro - - - - - vi - - - - - se I (m) - - - - -

Audio

Time 2:50 2:53 2:55 3:00 3:06

03:12 *wider intervals, increasingly erratic* *ff* *gl*

Voice

- - (im) - - - - - pro - - - - - vi - - - - - se

Audio

Time 3:06 3:09 3:15 3:19 3:20

pp