

Behold!

A Melodrama for Solo Baritone/Actor and Digital Playback

by Christian A. Gentry

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Notation

The vocal/actor part maintains a consistent standard of traditional notation, except the moments of soliloquy. Stage directions are purposefully omitted to allow more freedom for the performer; though, most of the theatricality is built in to the notation.

The digital playback notation does not often portray an accurate temporality. Furthermore, there are several idiosyncratic symbols and graphics that visually illustrate the music. These can be used as good markers for the performer.

Performance and Rehearsal Notes

The duration of certain events in the digital playback are not always measured. For best accuracy, adhere to the timeline provided in the middle staff between the digital playback and vocal line. Given the theatrical nature of the piece a use of click track should only be done for rehearsal purposes and not the performance. Most importantly, the performer is required to use a megaphone in certain sections of the piece. For the performer's convenience I provide (upon request) three audio files: 1) a master mix of the digital playback *with* metronome 2) click only 3) master mix only. The master mix only file (*behold_mstermix_noclick.wav*) is to be used in performance either with a 2.1 aural environment, or diffused across a 4.1 environment.

Program Notes

This piece explores the dramatic space shared between the zealous theatrics of street preaching and the abstract poetics of personal spirituality. The piece draws broadly from field recordings of street preachers, German intellectuals, street musicians, radio talk show hosts and altered MIDI orchestration. It straddles the world between art song and performance art creating a rich musical space for the text to inhabit. I wrote the text as a response to my own religious upbringing and encounters with “others” of (dis)similar faith traditions.

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Digital Playback

0'00"- 0'50"

0'25"- 1'16"

0'10"- 1'26"

Talk Radio/Lectures/
Street Preaching/
Street Sounds

Timeline

0'00"

Street Preacher

0'40"- 1'46"

ppp *mf* *ff*

1'32" 1'40"

Cue #1:
2, 4/4 bars
♩ = 60
♩ = 60

slowly raise megaphone
to your mouth

Be - hol _____

DP

1'46"

TL

S.P.

— D!

Drum Machine(basic pattern)

♩ = 104

mf

6x

2'00" 2'04"

repeat text up until you sing "breached"

The universal ambiguity of salvific
restraint that constrains my
heart and compels my soul
to stand before multitudes of saints:
lost and found, sinners: saved and
damned, cats: spayed and neutered,
whales: breached and fluked

pp *ff*

9

DP

TL

S.P.

$\text{♩} = 60$

f

breached and fluked

mf Cantabile

Be - hold. reach ing

ff

fpp

2'24"

2'34"

2'50"

and grasp ing_ yet not ful-ly hold - ing

Stand ing_

and stretch ing_

18

DP

TL

S.P.

f

fp

fp

3'04"

buh t!

not ful-ly touch-ing

stumbl ing_ and trip ping

but not ful-ly fall-ing

22

DP

TL

S.P.

Hop - ing_ and_ pray - ing_ but not ful - ly know - ing

p 3'20"

26

DP

TL

ff

ff

ff

Berceuse-y $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 63$

p

cresc.

3'35"

Cue #2, clicks every dotted quarter

30

DP

TL

S.P.

mp

mf

mp

mf

3'40"

Be - hold stars_ be yond stars_ in -

34

DP

TL 3'51"

S.P.

fin-ite ly shine through gap ing-ly

38

DP

TL 4'00"

S.P.

emp - ty black- ness

42

DP

TL 4'10"

45

DP

TL 4'20"

47

DP

TL 4'27"

sim l.v.

2

50

DP

TL 4'36"

4'44"

Cue #3, clicks every quarter

$\text{♩} = 94$

pp *f*

ju

55

DP

TL

S.P.

st! spe cks!

German speaking

5'21"

58

DP

TL

S.P.

6'10" 6'21"

Cue #4:
4 4/4 bars
♩ = 94

with megaphone
a piacere
mp

of mic - rob - i-al du st.

DP

TL

S.P.

6'39" 6'41"

Cue #5:
1 bar of 4/4
♩ = 94

(pace yourself so "in" is done right before playback enters)

"Behold! I exhort in—

f

Stop yourself abruptly by putting your hands over your mouth. Then, slowly remove hands from mouth.

(Vocal sound)

ff

ff

Flanging distorted drums

Backwards German speaking

6'47"

7'00"

7'22"

♩ = 84.82

ch ch ch ch ch

...muted...silence...and...unhinged noisiness—or, loudness, of **FIRE**
bursting through my physical frame as an
an an an INCANDESCENT! PLUMAGE!

68

TL

S.P.

ch chok-ing

the world with chok-ing the

WORLD!

with fettered hands that drip with caustic polymers—

7'38-8'12"

DP

accelerando molto

accelerando molto

f

mf

TL

7'34"

7'41"

8'12"

S.P.

hold until keyboards enter

f

Behold! I exhort in muted silence and unhinged noisiness bursting through my physical frame as an incandescent plumage of fire choking the world with fettered hands that drip with caustic polymers

Cue #6: 11 bars of 4/4 ♩ = 82.84

Cue #7: click ♩ = 50

mf

yet... yet... yet... I be - hold

DP

78

Organ/Strings/Synths

TL

8'21"

S.P.

the loud - est noth - ing - ness shroud - ed in light a speck

DP

82

TL

8'40"

S.P.

of float ing

86

DP

TL

9'00"

S.P.

30 Mar 13
Somerville