

insomnambularist

for mezzo-soprano and three noise oscillators

by Christian A. Gentry

for Megan Ihnen

Performance Instructions

Voice

- The vocal part consists of three staves: Air pressure, mouth shape, and pitch.
- Air Pressure shapes represent amount of air being pushed to front of mouth but not necessarily always escaping in the form of noise or pitch as represented by dynamics. (i.e. if it is pianissimo with a large air pressure marking there may be some “sputtering” of restrained noises coming out, which is desirable).



Large



Small



Gradually increasing



Gradually decreasing

- Mouth shape

○ Round

□ Wide

△ Half round/wide

----- Changing

———— Maintaining

Noteheads



Approximate pitch (high resonance for oscillators)



Approximate pitch (low resonance for oscillators)

Technical/Performance Instructions

Each performance comes with a Max patch. The patch instructions come with the patch as a simple text file. The performer is responsible to simply move from one cue to another as the piece progresses (①).

The noise oscillators are sent through a stereo channel that should go through two loudspeakers that are to be placed near the performer's feet in the performance space. While not completely necessary, it is recommended that an audio interface be used to route the audio from the laptop to the speakers.

The volume of the noise oscillators should be unobtrusively audible throughout the performance and the levels can be adjusted individually through the patch. If possible the performance is not meant for a large concert hall space. If the occasion is unavoidable and if it is possible, all audience members should be placed as closely to the performer as possible. The piece is best done in closely intimate gallery or theater spaces. Also, if at all possible, all HVAC systems should be turned off in the space as to not interfere with the noise oscillators and overall aesthetics of the performance. The piece lasts approximately 3'00".

In the event that program notes are used for the piece please use the following sentence:

Insomnambulist (n.) — one who wanders physically, mentally, and/or emotionally in full lucidity during typical sleeping hours.

PREVIEW ONLY

Insomnambularist

for mezzo-soprano and three noise oscillators

Christian A. Gentry (2017)

ca. 60

Air Pressure

Mouth Shape

Pitch

Three Noise Oscillators

① wait, ca. 10"

shh *ppp*

uh shh *mp pp*

shh *pp*

pppp

ppp

pppp

5x

③

mm *mp*

nuh shh *pp sempre*

shh

ee shh ee uh *pp mp*

④

pppp

ppp

pppp

*all boxed figures are unmeasured

Shape

Pitch

ee rr ee hh hhuh shh oo ee

pp *pp*

Three Noise Oscillators

Air

Shape

Pitch

shhee oo ee shh oo ee oo ee rr ee shh

pp *mf* *f* *pp*

Three Noise Oscillators

non vib.

5" 6" 7"

non vib...vib.

7

Pitch

oo ee oo ee oo ee sh

pp *mp*

5x

Three Noise Oscillators

The musical score consists of two main parts. The top part, labeled 'Pitch', is written on a single staff with a treble clef. It contains a melodic line with notes and lyrics 'oo ee oo ee oo ee sh'. The notes are: a half note 'oo' (F4), a half note 'ee' (G4), a half note 'oo' (F4), a half note 'ee' (G4), a half note 'oo' (F4), a half note 'ee' (G4), and a half note 'sh' (A4). The dynamics are *pp* for the first three notes and *mp* for the last three. A '5x' marking is above the second measure. The bottom part, labeled 'Three Noise Oscillators', consists of three staves (treble, middle, and bass clefs). Each staff contains a noise pattern represented by a series of slurs and diamond shapes. A large 'PREVIEW ONLY' watermark is overlaid on the page.