

Songs of a Mute Voice

for Baritone Saxophone and Computer

Benjamin R. Fuhrman

Circa Fourteen Minutes.

Performance Notes

To perform the *Songs*, you will need a laptop computer with the latest version of Max/MSP installed (check www.cycling74.com for the latest version), a high quality condenser microphone, and 2 speakers. Attach the speakers and the microphone to the computer, making sure to position the microphone so that it's not in a position to cause feedback, then start the patch labeled "Songs of a Mute Voice."

To use the patch, first select your preferred audio driver from the "Audio Driver" menu. Windows users should use ASIO drivers if at all possible. Next select the channel your microphone is connected to using the "Input Channel" menu. Then use the "Movement" menu to select the movement you are going to perform. Use the "Master Volume" slider to set the computer volume just below the saxophone at the loudest point in the movement (you'll have to experiment a bit), then hit the spacebar to trigger the cues as you play.

You can also use the "Jump to Rehearsal Number" buttons to jump to rehearsal points in the score. Keep in mind that they will not trigger any cues – they just prepare the computer for your next cue – right on that particular rehearsal number.

Finally, if you are looking for some insight into the piece, the "Show Text" button will display the text the composer developed for each movement. There is a correlation to the music, but it's up to the performer to interpret how that will affect the performance.

"**K**" numbers. These correspond to the multiphonic fingerings in Daniel Kientzy's *Les Sons Multiples aux Saxophones*. The number next to the **K** in the score indicates which fingering diagram should be used for a particular saxophone, so that **K51** in an alto saxophone would indicate alto diagram 51 in the Kientzy book.

Songs of a Mute Voice

Set for any instrument,
or solfège singing.

Benjamin Fuhrman

March 26, 2010
Lansing, Michigan

I: The River's Sermon

The river's currents
overrun the banks in
Spring.
Time passes it by.

Riven in the land,
a canyon stares at the sky.
Where do these two meet?

Errs in the floodplain,
a copse of spruce trees
standing
half underwater.

Currently alone,
a solitary maple
sheds a single leaf.

Rents in a tree's bark;
a silent testimony
of decay within.

II: Time Lapse, Panoramic View

Overhead, hawks sport.
Diving, spiraling, soaring,
as a small mouse dies.

Verdant fields of grass,
swaying in the moving
breeze;
murmuring longings.

Running in moonlight,
a fox chases a rodent;
stars watch in silence.

The fire of dawn,
breaking over the
landscape,
awakens the world.

Banks of stone and sand,
split by a ribbon of blue;
silver fish dancing.

In a dark forest,
ivy climbs trunks of cedar
hoping to see light.

Spring. Blossoms open;
sun and rain cascade
downward;
a whirlwind of life.

III: Solo *pas de deux*

Time erodes the land;
a single drop pushes on
till it meets the sea.

Passing through the void,
a barge upon the ocean;
like dust in the air.

Is it possible
we have all forgotten this
in search of ourselves?

It shifts in meaning,
our microcosm of life –
a fleeting instant.

By a silent pool,
a deer starts when a twig
breaks –
the mind changes course.

To Jeffrey Loeffert.

Songs of a Mute Voice

Score

I: The River's Sermon

Benjamin R. Fuhrman

March - August 2010

1 Meditative, relaxed ♩ = 76

Cues

Baritone Sax.

B. Sax.

B. Sax.

B. Sax.

B. Sax.

B. Sax.

B. Sax.

B. Sax.

B. Sax.

5

7 4

19

B. Sx.

ff *mp* *mp* *p* *ff*

6

7

2

Senza Misura

8

21

Cues

21

B. Sx.

mp *mp* *fp*

Breathe

24

Key Clicks

3

3

3

Key Clicks

Breathe

B. Sx.

pp *f* *f* *f*

9

27

Cues

27

B. Sx.

pp *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

10

29

Cues

29

B. Sx.

mf *f* *f* *f* *f* *fff*

Breathe Breathe Breathe Key Clicks



B. Sx. 31

mp *ff* *mp* *ff*

B. Sx. 33

Key Clicks *fp* subtone *tr* *tr* *tr*

B. Sx. 36

Breathe *ord. 5* *f* *mp* *f* *f*

Cues 38

mp *ff* *mf* *f* *ff* *fff*

B. Sx. 40

Key Clicks Key Clicks *fff* *sfz* *f* *mf*

⑮

B. Sx.

43

mp *ff*

3 Pseudo-misurato (Interrupted 3/4)

Cues

45

B. Sx.

p *sffz* *p* *sffz* *sffz*

Slap Slap

B. Sx.

47

p *sffz* *p* *sffz* *sffz* *p* *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

Slap Slap Slap

B. Sx.

49

p *ff* *p* *ff* *sffz* *p*

Slap

B. Sx.

51

ff *p* *ff* *sffz* *p*

Slap

B. Sx. 53

ff *p* *sffz* *sffz* *sffz* *p* *sffz* *p* *sffz* *sffz*

Slap Slap Slap Slap Slap

B. Sx. 55

p *ff* *p*

B. Sx. 57

ff *sffz* *p* *ff* *p*

Slap

B. Sx. 59

ff *p*

B. Sx. 61

ff *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *sffz*

Slap

B. Sx. 63

Slap Slap Slap Slap

sffz sffz p ff sffz sffz

B. Sx. 65

Slap

p ff sffz p

Cues 4 Misurato

4 Misurato

67

Monotonous. Little or no vibrato, but very intense

B. Sx. 67

mf

B. Sx. 71

ff mf ff mf ff ff

B. Sx. 75

mf ff mf ff

Cues

79

18 19 20

B. Sx.

79 Breathe Breathe

ff *ff sffz* *mf*

B. Sx.

83

21 22 23

Breathe

f *mf*

Cues

86

24 25

B. Sx.

86

mf *mf* *f*

B. Sx.

88

5 26 27

a tempo

K8

ff *fff* *mp* *fff*³

Cues

91

28 29 30

B. Sx.

91

K24 K35

mp *fff* *mp* *fff* *mp*

Cues

B. Sx.

94

31

K28

K24

K81

G.P.

32

33

K67

94

fff

3

3

mp

sfz

B. Sx.

98

34

35

36

37

K86

K95

K98

K95

K80

G.P.

98

mp

sfz

fff

mp

sfz

mp

sfz

mp

*fff*³

Cues

B. Sx.

103

38

39

40

41

K80

K81

G.P.

103

mp

*fff*³

mp

fff

Cues

B. Sx.

108

42

43

mp

mp

mp

mp

morendo

108

10

II: Time Lapse, Panoramic View

1 Misurato ♩ = 152

Baritone Sax. *ff*

B. Sx. *fff*

B. Sx. *ff*

B. Sx. *ff*

B. Sx. *ff*

B. Sx. 12

Slap

3

ff

B. Sx. 14

ff

5

ff

5

B. Sx. 16

ffp

sfz

sfz

Cues 18

2 Senza Misura

B. Sx. 18

Molto vibrato - very wide,

fff

fp

Cues 22

B. Sx. 22

ff

fp < ff

B. Sx. 25

p *p*

Cues 29

B. Sx. 29

mf *ff*

K28

Cues 32

B. Sx. 32

p *ff* *p* *ff* *mp*

K28 K49

ord.

3 Misurato

B. Sx. 36

f *mp* *f*

Slap

Cues 40

B. Sx. 40

p *mp* *f*

Slap

B. Sx. 44

mp *ff* *mp*

9

B. Sx. 48

fff

K23

10

Cues 52

4 Senza Misura

p *mf* *p*

11

12

B. Sx. 52

p *mf* *p*

13

Cues 58

mf *fff* *f*

K98 K86

14

15

Slap

B. Sx. 58

mf *fff* *f*

K98 K86

16

17

Slap

Cues 62

f *p* *f*

K86 K98

18

19

Slap

B. Sx. 62

f *p* *f*

19

20

Songs of a Mute Voice

5 Misurato

Cues

66

K86

20

21

22

B. Sx.

66

ff

p

ff

Growl

B. Sx.

70

Subtone

Growl

mf

B. Sx.

75

Subtone

Flat, no vibrato

fff

Cues

78

23

B. Sx.

78

f

Growl

Growl

Growl

Growl

B. Sx.

83

Growl

Growl

Flat, no vibrato

fff

14

6 Senza Misura

Songs of a Mute Voice

Cues

Cue line for measures 86-24, showing a measure rest with a vertical line at measure 24.

B. Sx.

Musical staff for measures 86-24. Measure 86 starts with a treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a common time signature. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with a dynamic marking of *p*. Measure 24 is indicated by a vertical dashed line.

B. Sx.

Musical staff for measures 24-25. Measure 24 is indicated by a vertical dashed line. The music includes a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mp* and the instruction "Sing". Measure 25 is indicated by a vertical dashed line.

B. Sx.

Musical staff for measures 25-26. Measure 25 is indicated by a vertical dashed line. The music includes a melodic line with dynamic markings of *mp* and *mf*, and the instruction "Sing". Measure 26 is indicated by a vertical dashed line.

Cues

Cue line for measures 96-27, showing a measure rest with a vertical line at measure 27.

B. Sx.

Musical staff for measures 27-28. Measure 27 is indicated by a vertical dashed line. The music includes a melodic line with dynamic markings of *mf* and *f*, and the instruction "Growl". Measure 28 is indicated by a vertical dashed line.

B. Sx.

Musical staff for measures 28-100. Measure 28 is indicated by a vertical dashed line. The music includes a melodic line with dynamic markings of *f*, *ff*, and *ff*, and the instructions "Growl" and "Sing". The staff ends with a double bar line and a 3/4 time signature.

7 Misurato

Cues

B. Sx.

103

103

K80 **K80** **K80**

ff sfz sfz sfz

Slap

ff

B. Sx.

108

ff

K80 **K80** **K80**

ff sfz sfz sfz

B. Sx.

112

sfz ff sfz ff sfz ff

6 6 5 5

B. Sx.

114

sfz ff sfz ff sfz ff

5 6 5

Cues

B. Sx.

116

116

K80 **K80**

ffff sfz sfz sffz

30

III: Solo pas de deux

1 Distant, as if from an old memory ♩ = 130

Cues

Baritone Sax.

pp *ff*

B. Sax.

pp *ff*

Cues

B. Sax.

mp *ff* *mf*

B. Sax.

f *f* *mf*

2 Senza Misura

B. Sax.

f *mp*

B. Sx. 26

Subtone ord. Subtone ord. Subtone ord.

mf p mf p mf p mp mf

B. Sx. 30

Subtone ord.

p p

Cues

B. Sx. 33

Subtone

fff mf p

B. Sx. 36

ord.

ff

B. Sx. 38

ff

Cues

B. Sx.

40

40

fff

p

Subtone

B. Sx.

43

ff

5

5

p

mf

p

mf

p

Subtone

ord.

Subtone

Subtone

Subtone

Subtone

3 Misurato

9

10

Regular notes are strictly in time. Grace notes are out of time, and should be played as if they are an improvisation.

B. Sx.

47

mf

p

Subtone

ord.

Subtone

simile

B. Sx.

50

mf

p

B. Sx.

52

mf

p

B. Sx. 54

B. Sx. 57

B. Sx. 61

B. Sx. 65

B. Sx. 69

B. Sx. 73 **K35** **K31** **G.P.**
mp

Cues 76 **K31** **G.P.**
B. Sx. 76 *f* *ff* *fff*

B. Sx. 80 **K31** **K35** *mp* *ff* *mp* *ff*

B. Sx. 84 **G.P.** *sfz* *ff*

B. Sx. 88 **K35** **G.P.** *fff* *mp* *mf*
Wait until the computer stops

B. Sx. 95

3 3 6 5

mp

B. Sx. 99

17 18

f *fff* *mp*

B. Sx. 105

mp

morendo