

Act Without Words I

(A piano accompaniment for Samuel Beckett's play.)

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Scene: Desert. Dazzling light.

Ephemeral and rubato (♩ = ca. 40)

8va
8va
8va
15ma
8va
mp (hard accents on right hand)
Leo

A man is flung backwards on stage from right wing.

Tempo II; piu mosso (♩ = ca. 50)

He falls, gets up immediately,

(clusters)

5
5
5
mp
mp
f
sfz
8va
8va
8va
8va
5
6
6
5
12
6
5
4/8
4/8

dusts himself, turns aside, reflects.

Tempo I

8va

8
8
rallantando
mp (hard accents on right hand)
Leo
8va
8va
8va
8va
3
5
5
5
p
poco accel.
Leo
Leo

Whistle from right wing.

He reflects,

goes out right
Tempo II

Immediately flung back on stage,

He falls,

gets up immediately,

13
13
mp
f
sfz
8va
8va
8va
8va
5
6
5
12
6
5
4/16
4/16
Leo
Leo

dusts himself, reflects.
Tempo III (♩. = ca. 60)

16 *mp*

Whistle from left wing. He reflects, **Tempo I** goes out left.

Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea.

20 *mf*

he falls, gets up immediately, *gva* Immediately flung back on stage, aside, reflects.

Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea.

24

Whistle from above. He reflects, goes toward left wing, hesitates, thinks better of it, halts, turns aside, reflects.

Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea.

A little tree descends from the flies, lands. It has a single bough some three yards from the ground and at its summit a meager tuft of plums casting at its foot a circle of shadow.

29 *poco rall.*

Whistle from above. He continues to reflect. He turns, sees tree, reflects, goes to it, sits down in its shadow, looks at hands. **Tempo III**

mp

Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea.

A pair of tailor's scissors descends from flies, comes to rest before tree, a yard from ground. He continues to look at his hands. Whistle from above. He looks up, sees scissors, takes them and starts to trim his nails.

The palms close like a parasol, the shadow disappears. He drops the scissors, reflects. A tiny carafe, to which is attached a huge label inscribed water, descends from flies, comes to rest some three yards from ground. Whistle from above. He continues to reflect.

He looks up, sees carafe, reflects, gets up, goes and stands under it, tries in vain to reach it,

renounces, turns aside, reflects.

A big cube descends from flies, lands. He continues to reflect.

Whistle from above. He turns, sees cube, looks at it, at carafe, reflects,

4 goes to cube, takes it up, carries it over and sets it down under carafe, tests its stability, gets up on it, tries in vain to reach carafe, to reach carafe,

50 *mp*

50 *Lea Lea Lea Lea * senza pedale*

remounces, gets down, carries cube back to its place, turns aside, reflects. A second smaller cube descends from flies, lands. He continues to reflect. Whistle from above.

56 *mp*

56 *Lea Lea Lea*

rall. e dim.

He turns, sees second cube, looks at carafe, goes to second cube, takes it up, carries it over and sets it down under carafe,

63 *p* *mp*

63 *senza pedale*

Come sopra

tests its stability, gets up on it, tries in vain to reach carafe, renounces, gets down, takes up second cube to carry it back to its place, thinks better of it, sets it down, goes to big cube, takes it up, carries it over and

68 *mp*

68 *Lea Lea Lea Lea Lea*

Reflective (lo stesso tempo)

mp *senza pedale*

76

76

puts it on small one, tests their stability, gets up on them,

Tempo II

(♩ = ca. 50)

the cubes collapse,

he falls,

gets up immediately,

Poco meno mosso (♩ = ca. 90) brushes himself, reflects.

He takes up small cube, **Tempo II** (♩ = ca. 50)

puts it on big one, tests their stability, gets up on them and is about to reach for carafe when

it is pulled up a little way and comes to rest beyond his reach.

He gets down, reflects,

carries cubes back to their place, one by one, turns aside, reflects.

A third still smaller cube descends from flies, lands.

He continues to reflect.

whistle from above

He turns, sees third cube, looks at it, reflects, turns aside, reflects.

The third cube is pulled up and disappears in flies.

Beside carafe a rope descends from flies, with knots to facilitate ascent. He continues to reflect.

112 Musical notation for measures 112-117. The score includes a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/8 time signature. The bass line features repeated notes marked 'Leo'. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 6, 3, and 6. A dynamic marking of 'mp' is present.

Whistle from above. He turns, sees rope, reflects,

goes to it, climbs up it and

Ecitato; molto ritmico (presto)

117 Musical notation for measures 117-130. The treble clef staff shows a melodic line with triplets and a 'whistle' instruction. The bass line has a steady rhythmic accompaniment. A dynamic marking of 'mp' is used.

(trill half step above note)

130 Musical notation for measures 130-138. This section is characterized by extensive trills in both hands, with a specific instruction '(trill half step above note)'. The bass line continues with repeated notes marked 'Leo'.

(trill half step above note)

138 Musical notation for measures 138-143. It continues the trill passages in the treble clef. The bass line has a descending scale marked with an '8' and repeated notes marked 'Leo'.

is about to reach it when

rope is let out and deposits him back on ground.

He reflects, looks around for scissors, sees them, goes and picks them up,

Reflective; non meno mosso

143 Musical notation for measures 143-150. The tempo changes to 'Reflective; non meno mosso'. The treble clef staff features chords and a melodic line, while the bass line has repeated notes marked 'Leo'. A double-headed arrow indicates a rhythmic change or contrast.

Musical score for measures 150-156. The piece is in 3/8 time. The right hand features a melodic line with triplets and trills. The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and rests. Trills are marked as "(trill half step above note)".

Musical score for measures 157-163. The right hand continues with melodic lines and trills. The left hand features a prominent eighth-note accompaniment. Trills are marked as "(trill half step above note)".

Musical score for measures 164-167. The right hand has a melodic line with a trill marked "(trill whole step above note)". The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment. The instruction "The rope is pulled up, lifting him off the ground, he hangs on," is written above the right hand. The dynamic "molto crescendo" is written at the end of the system.

Musical score for measures 168-176. The right hand has a melodic line with a trill marked "(trill half step above note)". The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *ff*, *sfz*, and *f*.

Musical score for measures 177-183. The right hand has a melodic line with a trill marked "(trill half step above note)". The left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *f*.

184

(trill half step above note)

succeeds in cutting rope, falls back on ground,

PII -

189

drops scissors, falls, (clusters)

gets up again immediately, burshes himself

reflects. The rope is pulled up quickly and disappears in flies.

Reflective; non meno mosso

195

With the length of rope in his possession he makes a lasso with which he

treis to lasso carafe. The carafe is pulled up quickly and disappears in flies.

200

He turns aside, reflects.

He goes with lasso in his hand to tree, looks at bough,

turns and looks at cubes,

looks again at bough,

drops lasso, goes to cubes, takes up small one,

207

turns and looks at cubes,

rall. e dim.

carries it over and sets it down under bough, goes back for big one, takes it up and carries it over under bought, makes to put it on small one, hesitates, thinks better of it, sets it down, takes up small one and

puts it on big one, tests their stability, 9

Musical score for measures 213-217. The score is in 4/4 time and features a piano with a *crescendo* marking. The right hand has a trill above the notes in measure 215, labeled "(trill half step above note)". The left hand has a *f* dynamic marking in measure 214. The piece concludes with a 12-measure phrase in 3/2 time.

He straightens up with lasso in his hand, turns and sees what has happened.
Come sopra
He drops lasso, turns aside, reflects. He carries back cubes to their place, one by one,

Musical score for measures 218-224. The score is in 12/8 time and features a piano with a *ff* dynamic marking. The right hand has a melodic line with a *mp* dynamic marking. The left hand has a *8va* marking in measure 223. The piece concludes with a 12-measure phrase in 4/4 time.

turns aside and stoops to pick up lasso.

The bough folds down against the trunk.

He turns aside, reflects.

Musical score for measures 225-230. The score is in 4/4 time and features a piano with a *f* dynamic marking. Both hands feature triplet patterns. The piece concludes with a 12-measure phrase in 4/4 time.

goes back for lasso, carries it over to cubes and lays it in a neat coil on small one.

Whistle from right wing.

Tempo II

He reflects, goes out right.

Immediately flung back on stage

Musical score for measures 231-234. The score is in 4/4 time and features a piano with a *mp* dynamic marking. The left hand has a *3* marking in measure 233 and a *5* marking in measure 234. The piece concludes with a 12-measure phrase in 4/4 time.

he falls, gets up immediately, brushes himself, turns aside, reflects.

Whistle from left wing. He does not move.

He looks at his hands, looks around for scissors,

Chorus; tranquil

sees them, goes and picks them up, starts to trim his nails, stops, reflects,

Musical score for measures 235-240. The score is in 4/4 time and features a piano with a *sfz* dynamic marking. The left hand has a *6* marking in measure 236 and a *5* marking in measure 237. The right hand has a *3* marking in measure 237. The piece concludes with a 12-measure phrase in 4/4 time.

Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. (simile)

runs his finger along blade of scissors, goes and lays them on small cube, turns aside, opens his collar, frees his neck and fingers it.

244 *mp*
 9/16
 Led.
 8vb
 Led.

The small cube is pulled up and disappears in flies, carrying away rope and scissors. He turns to take scissors, sees what has happened.

247 *p*
 8va
 accelerando e crescendo
 Led.
 8va
 Led.

He turns aside, reflects.

(To skip the instrumental section go to the coda sign on page 14.) D.S. al Coda

He goes and sits down on big cube.

250 *mp*
 Led.
 8va
 Led.
 Led.
 Led.
 Led.
 Led.
 Led.
 Led.

255 A trombone (or other instrument) descends from the flies.

Cantabile

He takes the trombone and plays.

255 *mp*
 Led.
 8va
 Led.

262

8va

268

8va

274

The trombone is pulled from his hands and disappears in flies.

8va

f

6

The cube is pulled from under him.

He falls.

The big cube is pulled up and disappears in flies.
He remains lying on his side, his face toward auditorium,

staring before him.

Musical score for measures 280-283. Treble and bass clefs. Includes dynamics like *sfz* and *mp*, and markings like *8va* and *Reo*. Fingerings 3, 5, 6, 12 are indicated.

The carafe descends from flies and comes to rest a few feet from his body.

He does not move. The carafe descends further, dangles and plays about his face. He does not move.

The carafe is

Musical score for measures 284-290. Treble and bass clefs. Includes markings like *8va* and *Reo*. Fingerings 3, 5, 7 are indicated. A '(Whistle.)' marking is present.

pulled up and disappears in flies.

The bough returns to horizontal, the palms open, the shade returns.

Whistle from above.
He does not move.

Musical score for measures 291-296. Treble and bass clefs. Includes markings like *8va* and *Reo*. Fingerings 3, 5, 7 are indicated.

The tree is pulled up and disappears in the flies.

Musical score for measures 297-302. Treble and bass clefs. Includes dynamics like *p* and markings like *8va* and *Reo*. Fingerings 3, 5, 6 are indicated. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end.

302 He looks at his hands. *8va-* *morendo poco a poco*

306 *8va-*

Frühling 1986, Kleinhöhenrain