

# Act Without Words I

A piano accompaniment to Samuel Beckett's work.

William Osborne

# Act Without Words I

A piano accompaniment to Samuel Beckett's work.

William Osborne

Scene: Desert. Dazzling light.

Ephemeral and rubato ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 40$ )

Musical score for the first section, marked "Ephemeral and rubato ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 40$ )". The score is written for piano and features a complex, rhythmic texture with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *sfz*, and *sva*. There are also performance instructions like "(4)", "(5)", and "(P)". A bracketed section is marked with an asterisk and the word "(hold)".

Tempo II; più mosso ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 50$ )

A man is flung backwards on stage from right wing.

+ He falls, gets up immediately, +

Musical score for the second section, marked "Tempo II; più mosso ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 50$ )". The score is written for piano and features a more rhythmic texture with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *sfz*, and *sva*. There are also performance instructions like "(5)", "(4)", and "rallantando". A bracketed section is marked with an asterisk. The score is framed by a large bracket on the left and right sides.

Tempo I

dusts himself, turns aside, reflects.

+ Whistle from right wing

+ He reflects, ||

Tempo II

goes out right.

sva  
sfz mp  
p poco accel.

Immediately flung back on stage, + he falls, gets up immediately,

Tempo III (F=ca. 120)

( $\frac{5}{2}F = F$ )

mp  
sfz  
f  
sva

dusts himself, reflects.  
sempre poco rubato

+ Whistle from left wing

+ He reflects, ||

Tempo I

goes out left,

mp  
sfz  
sva

Immediately flung back on stage

+ he falls, gets up immediately,

Grazioso

+ dusts himself, turns

mp  
sfz  
sva

aside, reflects. + Whistle from above + He reflects,

Musical score for the first system, featuring piano accompaniment and vocal melody. The piano part includes a (4) measure rest and various rhythmic patterns. The vocal line has several ornaments (6=, 5=, 3=) and rests. Dynamics include *mp* and *f*. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

goes toward left wing, hesitates, thinks better of it, halts, turns aside, reflects. + A little tree descends from the flies, lands. It has a single bough some three yards from ground and at its summit a meager tuft of palms casting at its foot a circle of shadow. + He continues to reflect. Whistle from above + He turns, sees tree, *Tempo III*

Musical score for the second system. The piano part includes a (4) measure rest and a *poco rallantando* instruction. The vocal line has ornaments (6=, 5=, 3=) and rests. Dynamics include *mp* and *f*. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

reflects, goes to it, sits down in its shadow, looks at hands. + 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

Musical score for the third system. The piano part includes a (4) measure rest and a *mp* dynamic. The vocal line has ornaments (6=, 5=, 3=) and rests. Dynamics include *mp* and *f*. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

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.

Musical score for the fourth system. The piano part includes a (4) measure rest and a *mp* dynamic. The vocal line has ornaments (6=, 5=, 3=) and rests. Dynamics include *mp* and *f*. The key signature has one sharp (F#).