

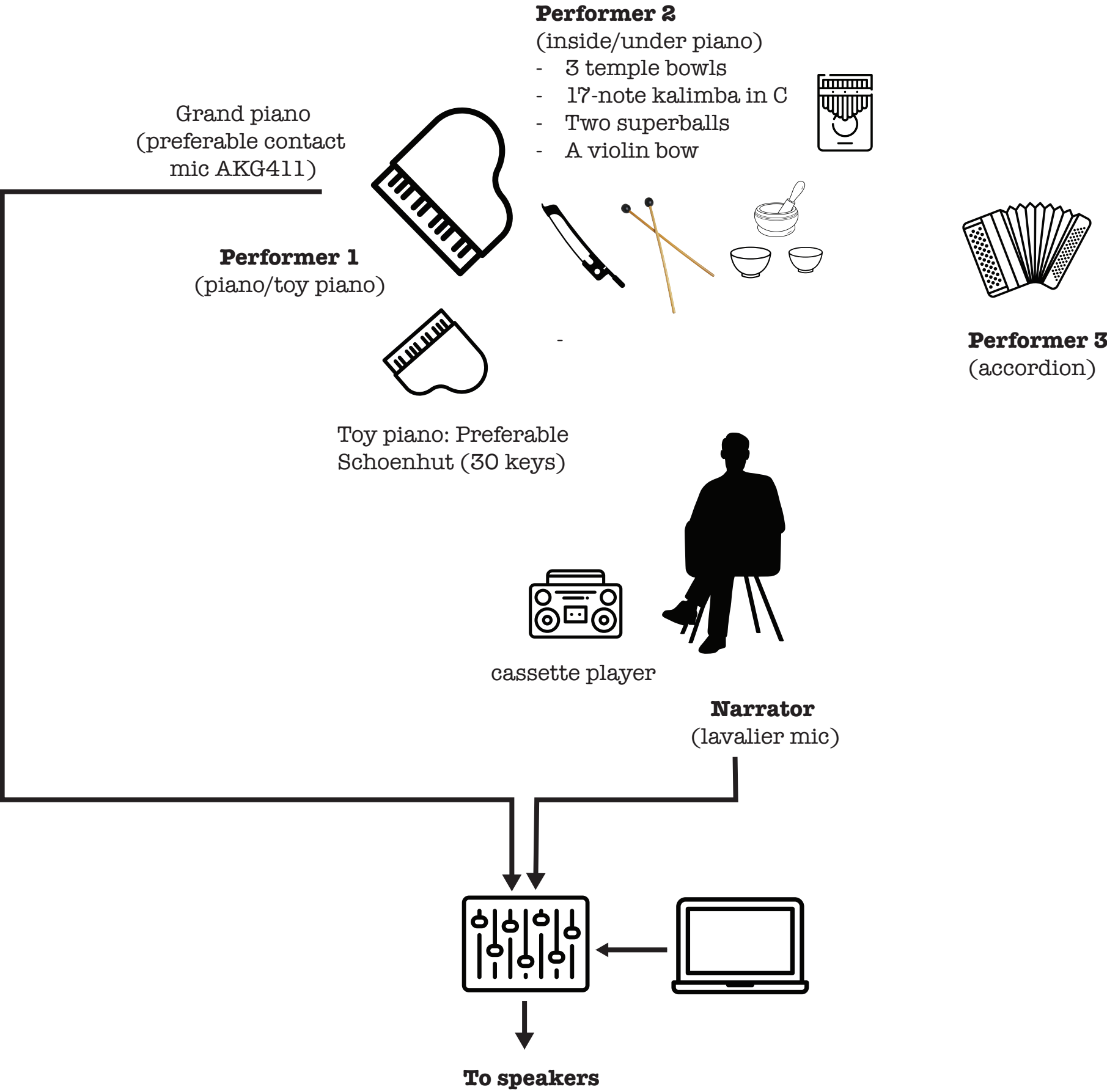
Oscillations (iii)

(A Contemporary Melodrama
Inspired by Schubert and Müller's
"Der Leiermann")

for narrator, prepared piano, toy piano,
accessories, accordion and electronics.

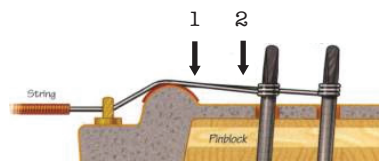
Juan S. Vassallo
2023-2024

Technical Rider

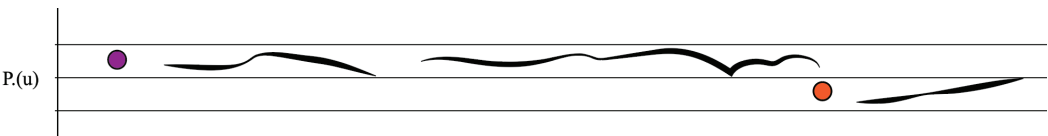


Performance notes

The grand piano requires the preparation of the note C4 (below middle C). Two small fridge magnets should be placed as indicated below. The resulting sound resembles a clock bell (indeterminate pitch).



Performer 2 should eventually go under the piano with two superballs. A 3-line staff represents the harmonic board under the piano. Each blank space between lines indicates the right/left side of the wooden tirant. Use two different superballs (each is indicated with a ball of different color). The lines indicate more or less the shape of the gesture of the rubbing.



Low string: Use a guiter pluck or a credit card to scratch a low string. Each grain appears more or less separated from the others.

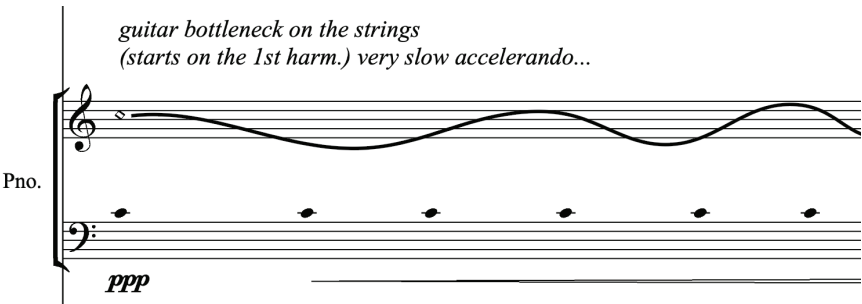
Low string



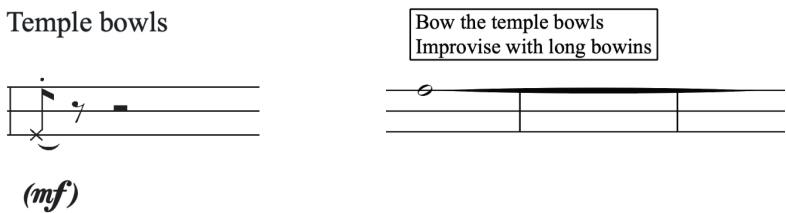
Use a superbball to rub a low string



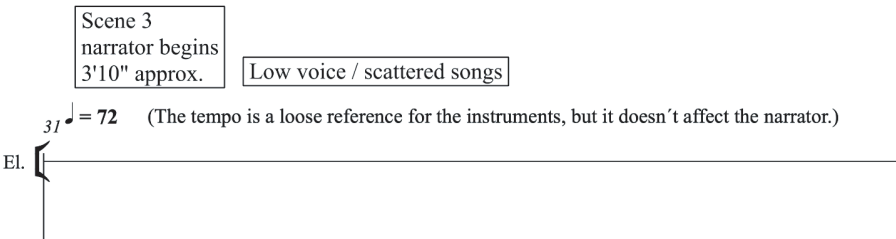
Guitar slide: Slide over the strings following the contour of the line.



Temple bowls can be percutted or bowed:



The electronics should be performed following the cues in the score. When a cue comes, press the corresponding button in the patch.



click the button in the patch



Oscillations (iii)

The score is organized into several staves, each with a corresponding instrument or sound source label on the left:

- Electronics:** Features a series of vertical lines representing sporadic radio noises. An annotation "Scene 1 - 1' 40" approx. sporadic radio noises" is at the top. A box labeled "Event 10 - sporadic radio noises" is positioned above the staff.
- Narrator:** A single horizontal line with no musical notation.
- Toy Piano:** Two staves with musical notation, including a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).
- Piano:** Two staves with musical notation, including a treble and bass clef. An annotation "Event 11 - Noise change" with a downward arrow points to the staff. Below the staff, there are dynamic markings: *pppp*, *ppp*, and *ppp*.
- Temple bowls:** A single staff with musical notation, including a treble clef.
- Low string:** A single staff with musical notation, including a treble clef.
- Piano (under and strings):** A single staff with musical notation, including a treble clef.
- Accordion:** Two staves with musical notation, including a treble and bass clef. Annotations include "register change clicks non measured, sporadic and irregular repeat a few times", "still non measured, irregular but mechanic.", and "repeat ad lib, change speed but maintain the proportional relations break it into fragments, repeat...". A box labeled "Event 10 - sporadic radio noises" is positioned above the staff.

The score includes various musical notations, such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings, and is annotated with event descriptions and performance instructions.

Scene 2 - 40" approx.
recording, then toy piano
/accordion starts

♩ = 72

molto rit.

El.

14

Event 12 - Fade out noise

recording:
(Der Leiermann)

Narr.

Turn ON
cassette player

let the last chord resonate
then, turn OFF cassette player
before the voice comes in.

Toy Piano.

Temple bowls

(mf)

♩ = 72

molto rit.

slowly down and dissapearing...

simile

prolongue the resonance of the toy piano notes, use different notes in each hand

Scene 3
narrator begins
3'10" approx.

Event 13 - Low voice / scattered songs

El.

31 ♩ = 72 (The tempo is a loose reference for the instruments, but it doesn't affect the narrator.)

Superball under piano

Accordion

"There, beyond the village
stands a hurdy-gurdy player;"

I see him every time I go to Galleriet

The spring must be soon coming, as he doesn't show
up much in Winter. I suppose that's good news.

At least now he can stick out his
fingers and play. He's terrible.

Narr.

Pno.

Play the C when the narrator finishes his first phrase:
'... stands a hurdy-gurdy player'

"I see him every time I go to Galleriet."

(prepared note)

"He's terrible."

P(u)

CUE

Improvise, follow the voice

Accord.

♩ = 72

"stands a hurdy-gurdy player"

"He's terrible."

41

Narr.

A particular kind of terrible. Playing those wrong chords. Too often.

Is he barefoot? I have never really observed him directly, but I notice, he trembles.

His hands shake. Maybe it's Parkinson's disease.

That can't help with the chords

Pno.

"Too often."

ppp

"He trembles"

p

pp

Accord.

"Too often."

ppp

pp

bellows shake

pp

"chords"

mf



51

Narr.

His head shakes too. It is Parkinson's.

My grandparents had Parkinson's.

I remember my grandmother's shaking head. And my grandfather's shaking hands.

My grandmother bullied him when his grilled meat was too salty.

His hands wouldn't listen.

Pno.

tremolo al niente...

M.S.

mp

f

"It is Parkinson's."

p

"My grandparents had Parkinson's."

mf

f

p

p

"when his grilled meat was too salty."

pp

Accord.

bellows shake

"My grandparents had Parkinson's."

pp

pp

slowing down the bellows shake

"And my grandfather's shaking hands."

pp

"when his grilled meat was too salty."

pp

pp sustain as many notes as possible from one chord to the next

pp sustain as many notes as possible from one chord to the next

Event 14 - 1st cresc.

The score is written for the following parts:

- El. (Electricity):** A single staff at the top, showing a rising waveform.
- Narr. (Narrator):** A staff with five lines of lyrics. A vertical dashed line marks the end of the first four lines.
- Pno. (Piano):** Two staves with complex musical notation, including triplets, sixteenth notes, and dynamic markings like *pp*, *ppp*, *mf*, *p*, *sf*, *ppp*, and *fff*. It includes four text boxes with lyrics: "What a stupid kid I was.", "at the hospital.", "You never think it will be the last.", and "I miss them".
- P(u) (Percussion):** A staff with a red dot labeled "Low string" and a large, dark, wavy shape representing a sound effect.
- Accord. (Accordion):** Two staves with musical notation, including a note with a long sustain line and the instruction "sustain as many notes as possible from one chord to the next". It includes three text boxes with lyrics: "What a stupid kid I was.", "at the hospital.", and "You never think it will be the last.". The final staff shows a rising waveform.

Scene 4 - Toy piano /
Accordion, train sounds

Event 15 - Female voice

El.

70

$\text{♩} = 72$

$\frac{4}{4}$

T. Pno.

pp

p

8^{va}

ppp

pp

$\text{♩} = 72$

8^{va}

ppp

pp

prolongue the resonance of the toy piano notes, use different notes in each hand



El.

78

accel. rall.

8^{va}

accel. rall.

Temple bowls

(mp)

8^{va}

p

$pppp$

M m 7 d
(use randomly)

S.B.

88

Scene 5
2nd Narrated part begins

Event 16 - low male voice

El.

Narr.

I never see money on his plate.
I can't imagine anyone giving him any.

People seems to walk away from him
on purpose.

Why does he even play?
Maybe he gets more money from NAV
for playing than for begging.

Dogs go mad at him when they pass by.
chuckles the whole thing is just too bizzare.

Accord.

"I never see money on his plate."

"on purpose"

"Why does he even play?"

improvise from previous passage

M m 7 d
(use randomly)

pppp

repeat until you
hear the next cue...

mp

mf

p



93

Event 17 - Whispers

El.

Narr.

He is definitely younger than he looks.
I wonder where he's from.

Syrian? Palestinian? Ukranian?

What kind of life he had before ending up here,
playing at Festplassen, for nothing?

Pno.

Improvise
with chords
M m 7 d

Use random staccato
and marcato at random time points
(the notated rhythm is an example of the result)

"Syrian? Palestinian? Ukranian?"

"for nothing?"

3:2

pp

mf

ppp

Accord.

"Sirian? Palestinian? Ukranian?"

"for nothing?"

8va

pp

mp

f

ppp

Temple bowls

(mf)

98

Narr. Did he flee from war? From poverty?
From starvation?

He doesn't seem to give a fuck about anything.
He just plays. His hurdy-gurdy never stops.

Always the same songs. Always the same wrong chords.
Always the same blank expression.

Pno. "From starvation?" *ppp* "His hurdy-gurdy never stops." *ppp* "Always the same blank expression." *pp*

Accord. "From starvation?" *ppp* "His hurdy-gurdy never stops." "Always the same blank expression."

101

El. But now I see he has Parkinson's.
I remember my grandmother's headshake.
Just like his.

I wish it was Sunday, 30 years ago.
Me and my family, having
lunch at their house.

I remember the smell of the food
when crossing their door... OMG.

How was the weather like that day?
The last time we were altogether?
Was it fall? Or spring?

Narr.

Pno. "Just like his." *p* *mp* "at their house." *mf* *f* "their door..." *mf* *pp* "Was it fall? Or spring?" *fff*

Accord. "Just like his." "at their house." "How was the weather like" "Was it fall? Or spring?" *fff*

Temple bowls (mp) To Kal.

Event 18 - 2nd. cresc. (cellphone interference)

Scene 6
Radio beeps

Event 19 - Female voice in Arabic
Piano to 'Evolution'

105 ♩ = 72

El.

Pno. *mp*

Kal. Kalimba

6 3 2 4 3 7 1 3 4 7 5 13

mp

Improvise (scarcely)

Event 20 - Male voice in Russian

Event 21 - Female voice in Romanian

112

Pno.

Kal. 8

gradually more notes

Event 22 - poem MUT

117

Pno.

Kal. gradually less notes and repeated

6 6

Accord.

Cue the narrator

To Temple bowls

Scene 7 - 3rd narrated part
Accordion with organ sound

Event 23 - Male voice; Fade out piano
from 'Evol'; Scattered songs again

125

El.

Narr.

It's just always the wrong chord.
Always at *that* particular cadence.

I wonder how he learned to play the hurdy-gurdy.
Does he knows anything about music at all?

Maybe he knows something about
scales, harmony.

Maybe he doesn't even think of chords,
sequences, form, formalisms.

Probably he knows nothing about Schubert,
Mahler, Cage...

Pno.

guitar bottleneck on the strings
(starts on the 1st harm.) very slow accelerando...

"It's just always the wrong chord."

ppp

p

Tb.

Bow the temple bowls
Improvise with long bowins

Continue...

Accord.

Use only notes from A harmonic minor,
sustain the resulting chords.

"It's just always the wrong chord."

p

p

continues...

slowly transitions to high register



Event 24 - 3rd. cresc/dim.

129

El.

Narr.

I wish I could make music
just like he does.

Maybe I should bring my guitar
and start playing with him. (chuckles)
That would be the most ridiculous thing.

Maybe I should just write songs.
Am I any good at writing songs?
Am I any good at writing poetry?

Maybe... I should give him one of my records.
What if I invite him to a live electronics impro session?

Strange old man.
Shall I go with you?
Will you turn your
hurdy-gurdy, to my songs?

Pno.

"Will you turn your
hurdy-gurdy, to my songs?"

mf

f

Tb.

f

Accord.

"That would be the most ridiculous thing."

mf

f

"Will you turn your
hurdy-gurdy, to my songs?"

♩ = 72

Scene 8
piano solo + accordion

Piano to 'Evol'

135

El.

Pno.

pp

Bow the temple bowls
Improvise with long bowins

Tb.

continue...



150

El.

Pno.



161

El.

Pno.

169

El.

Pno.



Event 25 - Fade out

178

El.

T. Pno.

Accord.

Temple bowls

Prolong the resonance of the toy piano notes

mp

ppp

ppp

ppppp