

Lullaby

for Megan Ihnen

in memory of Pauline Oliveros

Ian Power

2017

Introduction

This piece was written for the “Lullabies for Shaya” project, which was the invention of Megan Ihnen. This piece is written for Megan with an admiration for her ability to rally musicians so rapidly and effectively. I would also like to thank Shaya Bendix Lyon for inspiring the project.

It is written in memory of Pauline Oliveros, whose impact was so great as to not need summarizing here. It takes particular inspiration from her “Tuning Meditation,” which can be found on page 39 of her *Deep Listening Pieces*, © 1990, Deep Listening Publications.

The “Tuning Meditation's” last direction is: Sing warmly.

Ian Power
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Guide

This piece is for voice along with a small electric appliance associated with bedtime or a bedtime ritual. Examples are an electric toothbrush, a fan, an electric razor of some kind, a humidifier, a white noise machine, etc. If the piece is being performed in a space with a fair amount of ambient noise from traffic or other sources, it is possible to perform it without an appliance.

Find three tones produced by the appliance (or ambient noise). Mimic them with your voice – in pitch and timbre – and order them from low pitch to high. These are represented by the diamond noteheads in the spaces of the staff. (The beginning of the piece is a representation of this process; you can find the tones beforehand or during this introduction.)

Find two pitches in your imagination, comfortable in your range, not produced by the appliance. These are represented by the normal noteheads on the lines of the staff.

The duration of sustained notes is represented spatially. Stemmed notes should have the given rhythm. An “x” over two notes indicates a “cross-fade,” which should be a gradual pitch and timbral shift (no glissando). The performer can also find their own preferred solution for this effect.

Vowels for the diamond notehead sounds should come from the mimicking of the appliance's timbre. Vowels for the other tones are indicated with IPA, as follows:

ŋ as in **thing**.

ə as in **about**.

ɑː as in **father**.

At any point a breath can be taken, even in the middle of a note: stop, breathe calmly, and continue.

Take your time. Delicate but not precious. Tones should be constant, attacks and cutoffs sharp but not accented. Only cresc. or dim. where indicated.

Lullaby

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$\text{♩} = 60$

Voice *pp*

Appliance On

Duration

p *< p* *<*

(hum)

Off × On

flat tone
no vib.
p separate attacks; bell-like, but tender

x *mp* sim. x

the whirr of machinery

> / mp x *p* x

p x

é é é é é é

This block shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The melody consists of six eighth notes, each with a vowel 'é' underneath. The first note is marked with an 'x' above it. The staff is accompanied by a bass line of eighth notes.

più p x < x < x > *mp* x

é é é é é é

This block shows a musical staff with a treble clef. The melody consists of six eighth notes with 'é' underneath, followed by three notes with 'x' above them, and a final note with 'mp' and 'x' above it. The notes are marked with dynamic markings: *più p*, *p*, *p*, *mp*, and *p*. The staff is accompanied by a bass line of eighth notes.

mp full tone (vib.) *p* flat tone

a: a: a:

This block shows a musical staff with a treble clef. The melody consists of three notes, each with a vowel 'a:' underneath. The first note is marked with *mp*, the second with 'full tone (vib.)', and the third with *p*. The staff is accompanied by a bass line of eighth notes.

mp full flat *p*

a: a: (as long as possible before tone falters)

This block shows a musical staff with a treble clef. The melody consists of three notes, each with a vowel 'a:' underneath. The first note is marked with *mp*, the second with 'full', and the third with *p*. The staff is accompanied by a bass line of eighth notes.

This block shows an empty musical staff with a treble clef and a bass line of eighth notes.

The first system consists of two staves. The upper staff is a treble clef staff containing a series of horizontal bars of varying lengths, representing a pulse signal. The lower staff is a piano staff with a steady eighth-note rhythm.

The second system includes a diagram for a pulse appliance. The text "Pulse appliance: on off sim." is positioned above a horizontal line. Below this line, a series of vertical stems with diamond-shaped heads (representing 'on') and 'x' marks (representing 'off') are shown. The text "on", "off", and "sim." is placed above the first three stems. Below the diagram is a piano staff with a steady eighth-note rhythm.

The third system features a treble clef staff with a pulse signal, a piano staff with a steady eighth-note rhythm, and a repeat sign. The text "repeat until asleep" is written above the treble clef staff. The piano staff has a repeat sign at the end.