

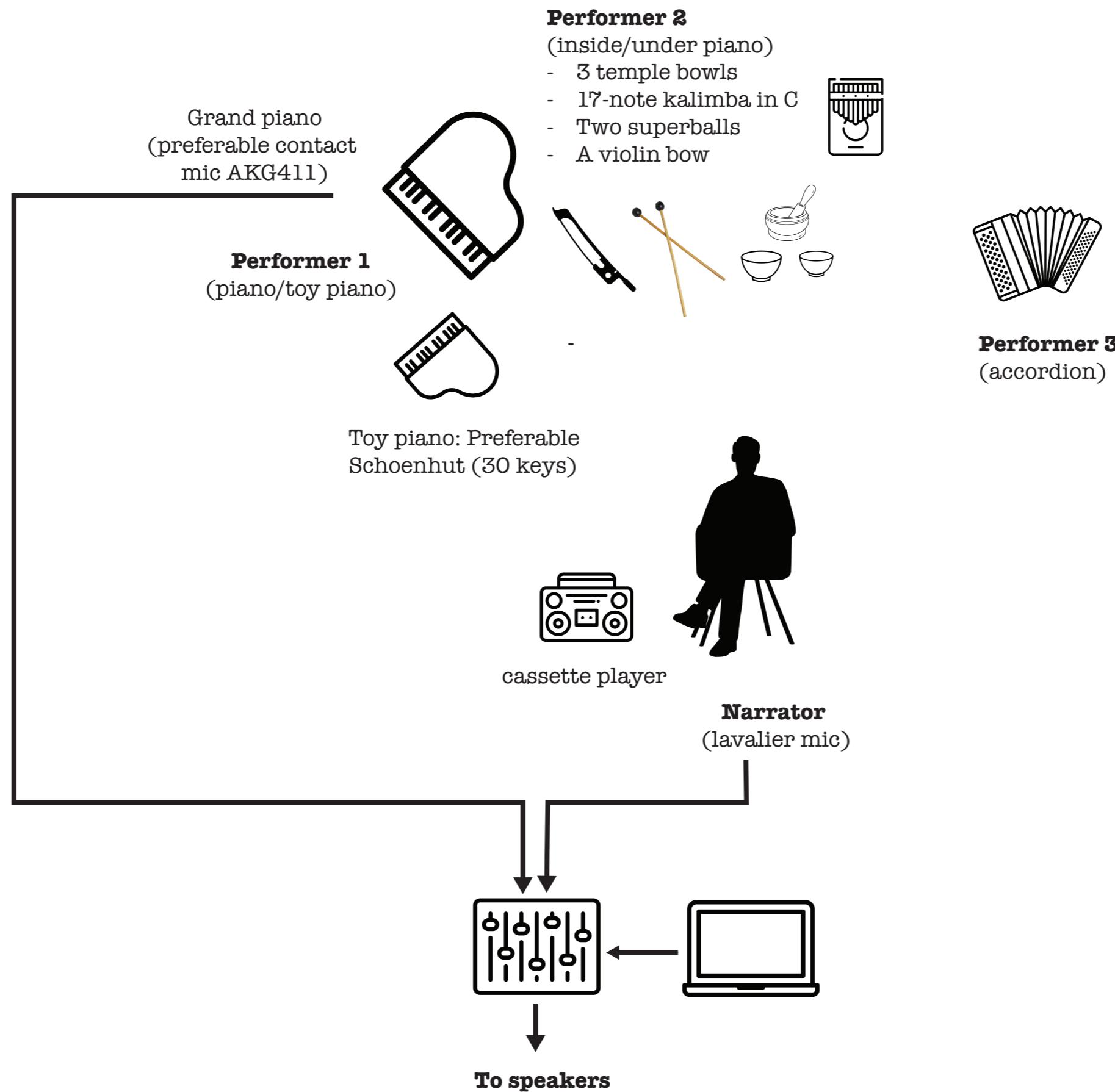
Oscillations (iii)

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

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

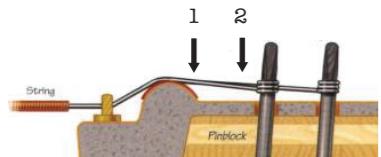
Juan S. Vassallo
2023-2024

Technical Rider



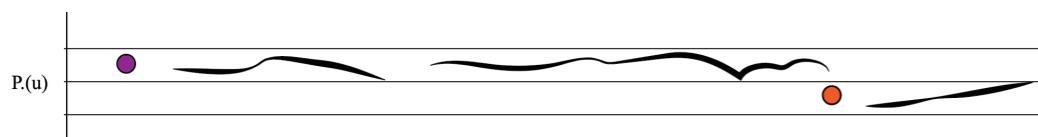
Performance notes

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).



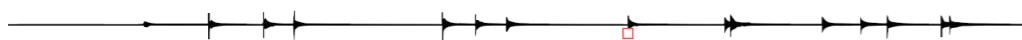
Performer 2 should eventually go under the piano with two superballs.

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 guitar pluck or a credit card to scratch a low string. Each grain appears more or less separated from the others.

Low string

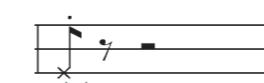


Use a superball to rub a low string



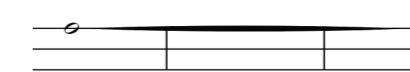
Temple bowls can be percussed or bowed:

Temple bowls



(mf)

Bow the temple bowls
Improvise with long bowins



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

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

Pno. *ppp*

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

Scene 3
narrator begins
3'10" approx.

Low voice / scattered songs

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

El.

click the button in the patch

scene 3

Oscillations (iii)

Scene 1 - 1' 40" approx.
sporadic radio noises

Electronics

Event 10 - sporadic radio noises

Narrator

Toy Piano

Piano

Event 11 - Noise change
when you hear the different radio noise, press the key

8th
pppp
Rd.

Temple bowls

ppp

Low string

scratch the string with a pluck (random granulation)

register change clicks
non measured, sporadic and irregular
repeat a few times

still non measured, irregular but mechanic.

repeat ad lib, change speed but
maintain the proportional relations
break it into fragments, repeat...

Accordion

air sound

ppp

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

14

El.

[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.

$\text{quarter note} = 72$

molto rit.

Toy Piano.

Temple bowls

A horizontal number line starting at -1 and ending at 1. There are 10 major tick marks, each representing $\frac{1}{4}$. The first tick mark after -1 is labeled $\frac{3}{4}$.

slowing down and disappearing

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

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

El.

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." "He's terrible."

(prepared note) sf ppp Rd

CUE

P(u)

Improvise, follow the voice

$\text{I} = 72$

Accord.

"stands a hurdy-gurdy player"

ppp pp ppp He's terrible. ppp

41

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

Narr.

Pno.

Accord.

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.

Event 14 - 1st cresc.

60

El.

I shouldn't have laughed.
What a stupid kid I was.

I remember the last time I saw him,
I had to watch him at the hospital.

My father came, I said goodbye, and I left.
A very normal goodbye, of course. You
never think it will be the last.

I can't remember the last I said
my grandmother though.

I dream of them almost every day.
I wonder where in space or time they are.
I miss them.

Narr.

Pno.

"What a stupid kid I was."
"at the hospital."
"You never think it will be the last."
"I miss them"

P(u)

Low string

"What a stupid kid I was."
"at the hospital."
"You never think
it will be the last."
"I miss them"

Accord.

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

fff

**Scene 4 - Toy piano /
Accordion, train sounds**

Event 15 - Female voice

70 $\text{♩} = 72$

El.

T. Pno. *pp* $\text{♩} = 72$

Accord. *pp*

8^{me} prolongue the resonance of the toy piano notes, use different notes in each hand

ppp *ppp* *pp*

=

78

El.

accel. rall.

accel. rall.

Temple bowls *(mp)*

M m 7 d
(use randomly)

S.B.

Accord. *p*

pppp

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"
"repeat until you
hear the next cue..."

"Why does he even play?"

improvise from previous passage

M m 7 d
(use randomly)

=

93

El.
Narr.

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

Syrian? Palestinian? Ukrainian?

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? Ukrainian?"

pp
mf
"for nothing?"
sf
pp
pp
mf
sf
pp
mf

Temple bowls
(mf)

Accord.

"Sirian? Palestinian? Ukrainian?"

mp
f
pp

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.

Narr. [98]

Pno. "From starvation?" *ppp*

"His hurdy-gurdy never stops." *pp*

"Always the same blank expression." *pp*

Accord. "From starvation?" *ppp* (8) "His hurdy-gurdy never stops." "Always the same blank expression."

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

El. But now I see he has Parkinson's.
I remember my grandmother's handshake.
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* "at their house." *mf* "How was the weather like" *f* "their door..." *mf* "Was it fall? Or spring?" *pp*

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

To Kal.

Scene 6
Radio beeps

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

105 $\text{♩} = 72$

El.

Pno. mp

Pno.

Kalimba

Kal. mp

Improvise (scarcely)

Event 20 - Male voice in Russian

Event 21 - Female voice in Romanian

Pno.

Kal.

gradually more notes

gradually more notes

Event 22 - poem MUT

Cue the narrator

To Temple bowls

Musical score for piano, kalimba, and accordions. The piano part (Pno.) features complex rhythmic patterns with various time signatures (3:2, 5:4, 6:4) indicated by brackets above the notes. The kalimba part (Kal.) consists of six staves, each with a different note pattern. The accordions (Accord.) provide harmonic support with sustained notes. The score includes performance instructions: 'gradually less notes and repeated' for the kalimba, 'Cue the narrator' for the piano, and 'To Temple bowls' for the accordions.

Scene 7 - 3rd narrated part
Accordion with organ sound

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

125

El.

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

I wonder how he learned to play the hurdy-gurdy.
Does he know 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...

Narr.

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

Pno.

"It's just always the wrong chord."

ppp

Bow the temple bowls
Improvise with long bowins

Tb.

Continue...

Accord.

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

p

"It's just always the wrong chord."

continues...

slowly transitions to high register



Event 24 - 3rd. cresc/dim.

129

El.

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?

Narr.

Pno.

mf

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

Tb.

f

Accord.

mf

mf

"That would be the most ridiculous thing."

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

$\text{♩} = 72$

135

El.

Pno.

Tb.

Scene 8
piano solo + accordion | Piano to 'Evol'

pp

Bow the temple bowls
Improvise with long bowins

136

continue...

=

150

El.

Pno.

=

161

El.

Pno.

Musical score for piano (Pno.) and electric instrument (El.). The score consists of two staves. The top staff is for the electric instrument (El.), indicated by a small icon of a guitar-like instrument. The bottom staff is for the piano (Pno.), indicated by a piano icon. The score is numbered 169 at the top left. The piano part features a continuous line of eighth-note chords, primarily in the right hand, with occasional bass notes from the left hand. The electric instrument part has a more rhythmic pattern, featuring eighth-note groups and sixteenth-note figures. Both parts are set against a background of sustained harmonic tones. Measure numbers 1 through 10 are visible along the top edge of the score.

2

Event 25 - Fade out

178

El.

T. Pno.

Temple bowls (pp)

Prolonge the resonance of the toy piano notes

Accord.