

FOR SOLO RECORDER

HOW TO DECAY GRACEFULLY

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Rhys Gray

PROGRAM NOTES

how to decay gracefully is a solo work for recorder, inspired by the eponymous artwork by Samantha Hensley, available here: <https://samsketchbook.tumblr.com/post/153882336611>. In it, the recorder player talks into the recorder while playing, and derives the bulk of the rhythmic content from the speed of their speech, which is ad libitum.

NOTATION

- Rests and notes with stems are to be interpreted as normal, at the marked 60bpm tempo.
- Arrows denote gradual changes to the technique that they point towards.
- Lyrics are to be spoken into the recorder.
- Cross noteheads denote lyrics to be spoken outside of the recorder.
- M denotes a multiphonic of the player's choosing.

How To Decay Gracefully

Text by Samantha Hensley

Rhys Gray

With a natural speaking rhythm ♩=60

Voice

Alto Recorder

keep "sh" sound

You were fran-tic and fool-ish, *f* you kept no track of time,

you ran your de-li-cate

bod-y in-to its nat-u-ral end, *f* you burned all your can-dles suck in air to stumps, you are tired

Voice

mm

and have no choice but to lay down,

14

You have earned this re-per-cus-sion,

musical notation for the vocal line. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. A slur covers the next four notes: G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), and D4 (half). Above this slur is the instruction "repeat until out of breath". The melody continues with a quarter note C4, a quarter note B3, and a half note A3. A slur covers the final two notes: G3 (half) and F#3 (half). Below the staff, the lyrics "This rec- kon ing," are written, with the first syllable "This" aligned under the G3 note and the rest of the phrase under the final notes.

uneven cresc.
& decresc. with pitch bend

M

lie still. lie still.

Voice

p

m

Musical notation for the vocal line of "Lie still." The melody is written on a single staff in treble clef. It begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, a quarter note A4, a quarter rest, a quarter note B4, and a quarter rest. This is followed by a half note C5, which is tied to the next half note C5. After the tie, there is a quarter rest, a quarter note B4, a quarter rest, a quarter note A4, and a quarter rest. The melody ends with a half note G4. The lyrics "lie still." are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. A fermata is placed over the tied C5 notes. The tempo marking "M" is placed above the staff.

[illegible]

there? is it like sleep-ing? qui-et - er?

