

BRAINSTAVES

for string quartet and EEG

Cliff Kerr | May 2019

A As if you are a brain in a vat (sonoro, $\text{♩} = 104$)

Bring out the melody as you build up the chord

VI
VII
Va
Vc

pppp
pp
mf
p
mf

10

As if rising and falling on an ocean swell

Falling off the edge of a...

VI
VII
Va
Vc

ppp
ff
ppp
fff
ppp
ff
ppp
fff

Ossia: invert the dynamics

19 **B** Evolving from sweet to insane (poco a poco crescendo e agitato, ♩ = ♩, ♩ = 104)

VI *p*

VII *pp pizz.*

Va *pp pizz.*

Vc *pp pizz.*

26 VI: sweet and lyrical, like a fine stream of honey, but gradually getting louder too

VI *mp*

VII *p*

Va *p*

Vc *p*

30

VI *mf*

VII *mf*

Va *mf*

Vc *mf*

33

VI *f*

VII *f*

Va *f*

Vc *f*

36

VI

ff

VII

ff

Va

ff

Vc

ff

39

VI

pizz.

VII

Va

Vc

ff

ff

ff

ff

♩ = 104

Ossia: *pp*

Strong, fat, angry, but gradually relaxing (legatissimo, poco a poco diminuendo)

42 **C**

VI *arco* *ff*

VII *ff* *arco*

Va *ff* *arco*

Vc *ff* *arco*

Ossia: still *pp* *ff* *arco*

Ossia: *ff*

44

VI

VII

Va

Vc

Ossia: *subito pp*

Ossia: *subito ff*

46

VI *f*

VII *f*

Va *f*

Vc *f*

48

VI

VII

Va

Vc

50

VI *mf* *mp*

VII *mf* *mp*

Va *mf* *mp*

Vc *mf* *mp*

52 Gradually start doing more and more of a glissando in a random direction on each (separate) note

VI *p*

VII *p*

Va *p*

Vc *p*

55 Glissandi should be big by now Short notes should be barely audible under VII

VI *pp* *f*

VII *pp* *f*

Va *pp*

Vc *pp*

61

Make eye contact with each other throughout;
play furtively (razor-sharp onset and offset)

VI *ppp*

VII *ppp*

Va *ppp*

Vc *ppp*

Ossia: *ff*

63 **D** Drunk; sempre glissando; lean into the glissandi (and lean for real, as if drunk); poco a poco crescendo

VI *ppp*

VII *ppp*

Va *ppp*

Vc *ppp*

70

VI *pp*

VII *pp*

Va

Vc

p

75

VI *mp*

VII *mp*

Va *mp*

Vc *mp*

mf

mf

mf

79

VI *f*

VII *f*

Va *f*

Vc *f*

E Like an echo in an empty train station,
but the train is coming (sternly; poco a
poco crescendo)

84

VI *ppp*

VII *ppp*

Va *ppp*

Vc *ppp*

Ossia: *ff ppp*

94 Legatissimo

VI *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp*

VII *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp*

Va *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp*

Vc *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp*

Ossia: still *ppp*

98

VI *mf* *f* *ff* *fff* *ppp*

VII *mf* *f* *ff* *fff* *ppp*

Va *mf* *f* *ff* *fff* *ppp*

Vc *mf* *f* *ff* *fff* *ppp*

Ossia: *ppp*

Lift off the bow in a theatrically exaggerated gesture

Everyone arpeggiato like crazy; maintain speed but gradually lift the bow until it no longer touches the strings, and then bow the air for a bit

106 **F** Focused, lyrical; light, whimsical background accompaniment; impassioned solos

VI *pp*

VII *pp*

Va *pp*

Vc *mf*

108

VI

VII

Va

Vc

111

VI *mf*

VII

Va

Vc

simile

114

VI

VII

Va

Vc

117

VI

VII

Va

Vc

mf

mf

120

VI

VII

Va

Vc

122

VI

VII

Va

Vc

p

125 **G** Still lyrical, but with the wide-eyed wonder of having just discovered the top of your head

VI *mp*

VII

Va *p*

Vc *f* pizz., gliss.

129

VI

VII

Va

Vc

133

VI

VII

Va *p*

Vc

136

VI *pizz., gliss.*

VII

Va

Vc *f* pizz., gliss.

139

VI

VII

Va

Vc

142

VI

VII

Va

Vc

146

Stare at each other

VI

VII

Va

Vc

f pizz., gliss.

p

ff

p

ff

p

ff

Ossia: *ff*

Ossia: *p*

♩ = 104 Evolving from insane to sweet
(poco a poco diminuendo e rallentando)

150

VI *ff*

VII *ff*

Va *ff*

Vc *ff*

Ossia: *pp*, poco a poco cresc.

152

VI *ff arco*

VII *f*

Va *f*

Vc *f*

Ossia: *ff*, then continue as written

155

VI *mf*

VII *mf*

Va *mf*

Vc *mf*

158

VI *mp*

VII *mp*

Va *mp*

Vc *mp*

161 Gradually start doing more and more of a glissando in a random direction on each pizz.

VI *p*

VII *p*

Va *p*

Vc *p*

164

VI *pp* *f*

VII *pp*

Va *pp*

Vc *pp*

168 Chord should enter inaudibly under VI Smile broadly :D

VI *ff mp pizz.*

VII *ppp ff*

Va *ppp ff*

Vc *ppp ff*

Ossia: start *subito ff* and tutti dim. to *ppp*