

## 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

Bring out the melody as you build up the chord

As if rising and falling on an ocean swell

Falling off the edge of a...

10 11 12 13

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*

*mp*

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

♩ = 104

VI pizz. *ff* let ring

VII *ff* let ring

Va *ff* let ring

Vc *ff* let ring

**C** Strong, fat, angry, but gradually relaxing (poco a poco diminuendo e sul pont.)

42

VI *ff* arco *sempre ff*

VII *ff* arco

Va *ff* arco *sempre ff*

Vc *ff* arco *sempre ff*

44

VI

VII

Va

Vc

46

VI *f*

VII *f*

Va *f*

Vc *f*

48

VI *mf*

VII *mf*

Va *mf*

Vc *mf*

50

VI *mp*

VII *mp*

Va *mp*

Vc *mp*

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

52

VI *p*

VII *p*

Va *p*

Vc *p*

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

55

VI *pp* Big glissandi

VII *pp*

Va *pp* Big glissandi

Vc *pp* Big glissandi

*f*

Short notes should be barely audible under VII

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

61

VI *ppp*

VII *ppp*

Va *ppp*

Vc *ppp*

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

VI *ppp* *simile*

VII *ppp* *simile*

Va *ppp* *simile*

Vc *ppp* *simile*

70

VI *pp* *p*

VII *pp* *p*

Va *pp* *p*

Vc *pp* *p*

75

VI *mp* *mf*

VII *mp* *mf*

Va *mp* *mf*

Vc *p* *mp* *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*

94

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

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

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

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

Legatissimo

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

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*

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

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

106

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

*mf*

Va

*mf*

Vc

120

VI

VII

Va

Vc

122

VI

VII

Va

*p dolce e lirico*

Vc

G

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

125

VI *mp*

VII

Va *p*

Vc

*f* pizz., gliss., articulate each note

129

VI

VII

Va

Vc

133

VI

VII

Va

Vc

*p*

136

VI *f* pizz. gliss.

VII

Va *f* pizz., gliss.

Vc

139

VI

VII

Va

Vc

142

VI

VII

Va

Vc

146

Stare at each other

VI

VII

Va

Vc

*f* pizz., gliss.

*p* sempre pizz.

*ff* let ring

*p* sempre pizz.

*ff* let ring

*p* sempre pizz.

*ff* let ring

Stare at each other

**H** = 104 Evolving from insane to sweet (poco a poco diminuendo)

150

VI *ff* pizz.

VII *ff* pizz.

Va *ff* pizz.

Vc *ff* pizz.

152

VI *ff* arco

VII *f*

Va *f*

Vc *f*

155

VI *mf*

VII *mf*

Va *mf*

Vc *mf*

158

VI *mp*

VII *mp*

Va *mp*

Vc *mp*

12

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161

VI *p* Gradually start doing more and more of a glissando in a random direction on each pizz.

VII *p*

Va *p*

Vc *p* Gradually start doing more and more of a glissando in a random direction on each pizz.

164

VI *pp* *f*

VII *pp* Big glissandi

Va *pp* Big glissandi

Vc *pp* Big glissandi

168

VI Smile broadly :D *mp* pizz. *ff*

VII Chord should enter inaudibly under VI *ppp* arco *ff*

Va *ppp* arco *ff*

Vc *ppp* arco *ff*

Chord should enter inaudibly under VI