

still tongues mumble

for two trombones

Sam Yulsman

2017

Instrumentation:

two trombones

Duration - 9 min.

Performance Notes

Over-pressure sounds


This piece uses sounds produced by increasing lip pressure beyond the amount of pressure used in normal trombone playing. These sounds are notated using a separate staff that indicates "popping noise" and "white over-pressure noise" as two points on a sliding scale that corresponds roughly to the amount of lip pressure used to produce each sound.

To produce the soft popping noise, increase lip pressure until air can only barely escape your lips in tiny quantities; a soft popping noise should be created, similar to the sound of a tent zipper or tiny droplets of water hitting a ceramic surface. A continuous white noise similar to television static can be produced by decreasing lip pressure slightly from this point; another way to approach playing this sound is to increase lip pressure slightly beyond the amount used to produce lip-multiphonics.

Glissandi are used to indicate smooth transitions between these sounds. When moving from the popping noise to the white over-pressure noise, the tiny pops should increase in speed, until they form a continuous stream of sound. Moving in the opposite direction, the white over-pressure noise should disintegrate until only discrete pops of noise are audible. When the upper staff is not present, normal lip pressure should be used.


Recordings of these sounds are available upon request from the composer.


Special Symbols

 Vibrati: various vibrati are graphically indicated, ranging from approximately a quarter tone to major third in width.


 ingressive playing

 highest note possible

 closed plunger mute

 open plunger mute

 half open plunger mute

 open and close the plunger mute in a motion that mirrors the graphic indication.

"...but he never said a mumblin' word. Not a word, not a word."

From "He Never Said a Mumblin' Word", as sung by the The Golden Gate Quartet,
Gospel Train (Original 1937 - 1942 Recordings), Naxos Gospel Legends, 2006.

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♩ = 60

Lip Pressure
white "over-pressure" noise
popping noise

Trombone I

plunger mute

pppp *p* *ppp* *pp*

Trombone II

plunger mute

as soft as possible *ppp* *p* *8vb* *pppp* as soft as possible

6

10

(gliss.)

pppp as soft as possible *p*

loco *ppp* *p*

11

Lip Pressure
white "over-pressure" noise
popping noise

pp

8vb *pppp* *loco*

16

white "over-pressure" noise
popping noise

p

mp (vibrato)

white "over-pressure" noise
popping noise

p

9 10 12 10 9 (vibrato)

pppp *p*

23

$\text{♩} = 80$ $\text{♩} = 60$

p *p*

(vibrato)

pp *8vb* *ppp*

29

white noise

mf *ppp* *mp*

mf

9 10 12 10 9

ppp

p

35

mf

p

white noise

mf

ppp

mp

mp

f

39

mp

mp

mp

pp

p

mp

p

43

mp

p

mp

p

mp

p

mp

pp

4

(accel.)

♩ = 60

♩ = 100 - 120

47

ppp

mp

p

ppp

pp

pppp

ppp

pppp

8vb

♩ = 60

53

mp

mp

pp

mf

pp

11th partial

loco

mp

mf

mp

8vb

57

p

mf

mf

loco

62

$\text{♩} = 100 - 120$

$\text{♩} = 60$

mp *p* *pp* *mf*

loco *p* *p* *mf* *pp* *ppp*

68

mf *f* *f* *mf* *f*

mf *f* *mf* *f* *f*

72

15-20 seconds

15-20 seconds

pppp *pppp*

pppp *pp*

76

as high as possible

pppp

p

pp

pp

pp

pp

81

ppp

pp

ppp

p

ppp

87

9

10

sub

ppp

pppp

p

ppp

ppp

sub

pppp

92

10

pppp as soft as possible

p

pppp

loco

ppp

p

7

97

mf

pppp

loco

mf

loco

103

$\text{♩} = 100 - 120$

8 (partial number)

f

f

mp

f

ppp

p

f

loco

f

mf

8vb

109

f *f*

f non dim.

ff

loco

♩ = 100 - 120

113

mp *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *f*

mp *f* *ppp*

as soft as possible until the end

117

ff *p* *ff* *p*

as soft as possible

as soft as possible

121

ff *p*
as soft as possible
until the end

125

(rit.)

$\bullet = 60$ $\frac{5}{4}$ 10-15 seconds

10-15 seconds