

Tell Me What You Think of Me

A Monodrama in Twenty-Six Letters

for Vocalist and Assistant

David Vayo

“Tell Me What You Think of Me” may be performed by either a female or male vocalist. If male, the pitches should be taken down an octave. The vocalist must be comfortable with acting and willing to ham it up.

Performances should take place in a hall with a lighting system.

Props

Vocalist

- swim goggles
- cape and aviator’s goggles (optional)

Assistant

- pool or deck chair
 - beach towel
 - lemon
 - * large, resonant pot or bowl, half-filled with water
 - * cup or small pitcher, partly filled with water
 - movie clapboard
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- If preferred, the composer can provide a recording (sound file or CD) that will obviate the need for these props.

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David Vayo (2006)

♩ = 60

give upbeat w/ both hands mark downbeat, then hold open hands out, like choir director relax hands/ arms give upbeat simile upbeat w/ LH only

Vocalist

f

A _____ A _____

turn head left/ gesture like choir director, as above simile, on right side left right L R L face center/ mark downbeat/ hold hands out relax hands/ arms upbeat (both hands)

slight timbral variations from note to note

A A A A A A A A

5 downbeat/ hands out relax hands/ arms *hunch over/ hands close to chest/ squint, screw up face... jerk head suddenly, looking in another direction *accel.*... ...♩ = 84 simile, looking in a different direction each time

extremely nasal...

Bee _____ Bee _____ Bee Bee Bee Bee Bee

♩ = 144

8 face front flutter fingers... freeze

Bee _____

♩ = 84

13 straighten up/ hands, arms, face relax/ look up w/wide eyes (wide eyes...) look straight ahead look down look straight ahead look up straight ahead down straight ahead

normal tone

See _____ See _____ See _____ See _____

* The overall impression should be insect-like, but also like a crabby elderly person.

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molto accel. . .

15 up ahead down ahead up ahead down ahead up down up down

See _____ See _____ See _____ See _____ See See See See

ca. 8 sec.

... ♩ = 360

in "insect" character:
make "eyeglasses"
around eyes w/ fingers,
look around intensely at audience freeze hands down/
assume relaxed,
casual persona

17 up down

breviss. nasal

See See See... _____

♩ = 136 walk around stage, looking around,
relaxed and a little jaunty . . .

19 *mp* singsong noodling

Dee Dee Dee Dee Dee Dee Dee Dee Dee Dee

23 Walk onstage carrying
pool/deck chair, beach towel
and swim goggles.

put chair down,
drape towel over it

Asst.

Vocalist

Dee Dee Dee Dee Dee Dee Dee Dee Dee

notice assistant

26 *poco rit.* 12 - 15 sec. exit

Asst.

Voc.

Dec Dec Dec Dee ... Eee

28 *mime underwater swimming...* 6 - 7" cock head to side facing audience, open mouth to let bubbles escape close mouth, breathe imperceptibly

Voc.

BKHWSH... FFF...

$\text{♩} = 104$

30 8 - 9" head up, taking a gulp of air head down

FFF... HHH... FFF...

31 $\text{♩} = 104$ $\text{♩} = 92$

as before head up... clambering onto land...

HHH HHH HHH HHH HHH

34 ... plop into chair, exhausted rit.

HHH HHH

♩ = 36

ca. 10 sec.

sigh of relief take off goggles, voiced/breathy:
 put down bigger sigh of relief
 inhale through nose

ff *pp* *pp* *f* *f* *pp* *mp*

→ HHH... ← → *Ah ē J K
 (i)

♩ = 48

begin to smile, slowly get up slowly mounting excitement...
 take a step forward, stop another step, stop

40 *mf*

J K J K J K J K J K J K J K

20 - 22 sec.

45 remove chair & towel from stage

Asst.

imitate a train accelerating; little steps, arms moving like pistons, etc.;
 obviously having a great time
 accel. e cresc. poco a poco . . .
 no break; continue consonants when inhaling

♩ = 28

Voc.

J K J K

... move wildly around stage;
 rip-roaring fun

♩ = 152

46 *ff*

J K J K J J K J K

* Gradually change the "ah" vowel to a long "e" vowel, so the effect of a long "i" is produced.

stop, jiggle in place;
look at audience,
mime pulling
airhorn cord (pull)

50

inhale
yell forcefully yell inhale

Em!

54

move . . .

En! O!

57

stop,
get audience to join in;
pull

En! Em! En! Oh!

61

move...

64

stop, w/ audience; pull

Em! O!

72

throw lemon at performer from backstage

4-5 sec. 5-7 sec

Asst. **2** **2**

Voc. **2** **2**

Stop immediately when hit by(or notice) lemon

Stare confusedly at lemon with a couple of quick glances at audience

move slowly/cautiously to lemon...

78

pick lemon up, straighten up, look at it confusedly...

5-6 sec

mf

less confused to audience (spoken) enlightened

2 1/2-3 sec

toss lemon away; tension in body gone, look relaxed, casual

Voc.

A lemon -
(El em en)

oh!

80

suddenly double over a bit, hands over lower abdomen, look pained/worried, glance furtively around (inc. at audience)

2-3 sec

holding pose and expression, walk slowly toward backstage (holding it in)...

7-8 sec

....stop at edge of stage

ca. 3 sec

mp to audience; worriedly

ca. 3 sec

dissappear backstage

Voc.

Pee.

84

(backstage, near performer's exit point) pour thin stream of water into large resonant pot or bowl half-filled with water; OR, play recording

4-5 sec

stick arms out from backstage, holding a movie clapboard, with top open

5-6 sec

2-3 sec

clap top down

pull arm & board back in

Asst.

Cue!
(shouted)

ca. 20 sec

burst onto stage (optional: wearing cape and aviator's goggles), imitating a plane in flight. "Fly" all around the stage, executing some dips, wing-tilts and other aerobatic maneuvers...

♩ = 88 running out of fuel; shudder with each "T", look alarmed
(f) consonants only

87 (small pitch bends as appropriate...)

Voc.

RRR...
 (imitate prop airplane)

T T T T T T T T

ca. 7 sec

ca. 3 sec

89 engine re-engages

♩ = 88 simile

gliding, losing a bit of altitude; look alarmed

RRR...

T T T T T T T T

SSS...

ca. 3 sec

92 **f** looking desperate

RRR...

T T T T T T T T T T T T

7-8 sec

94 losing altitude - look around desperately...

try flapping wings, harder and harder...

SSS...

ca. 4 sec | 7-8 sec

95 (still losing altitude)
look at audience,
stop flapping

look away from audience -
diving into a crash landing

w/ vocal cords: sound of plane dive bombing

mp *p* cresc...

(long U vowel) Ooo... VVV...

9-10 sec | ca. 4 sec

97 hit the ground in a heap,
facing audience

Look up pathetically
at audience

pp spoken; weakly

collapse
onto back

PKHKH... Double ooo.

2-3 sec | 3-4 sec | ca. 5 sec

99 suddenly lift arms,
crossing them to form an "X"
clearly visible to audience

arms collapse down;
don't move

ca. 7 sec | 9-10 sec


102 move head very slowly from side to side...
half-sung

(slightly higher in pitch)

Why, why, why, why? Why, why, why, why?

head still 10-12 sec

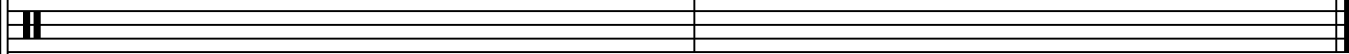
104 ***p*** sleepy sigh roll slowly onto side, get settled



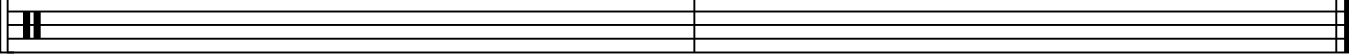
Hm _____

105 ca. 25 sec 10-12 sec

Asst. gradually fade lighting... ..darkness



Voc. ***p*** snore contentedly... (silence)



ZZZ...

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