

“Feedback Harmonies”

Five songs for tenor and piano

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Reuben Gelley Newman

1. That a music does not construct a theory for the future but constructs a future out of which comes several theories if necessary
2. Unintelligible
3. World of Echo
4. Echo delays the onset of a sound in air long enough to engender perceptibility
5. Tower of Meaning

Performance Time: c. 14 minutes

Composed Sept.-Nov. 2020

I. That a music does not construct a theory
for the future but constructs a future out of which comes
several theories if necessary

Reuben Gelley Newman

curiously ♩ = 66 *mf*

A room brim-ming with box-es and cas-settes, tape-decks,

5 **rit.** ♩ = 44

re-cords, head-phones, amps:

10 *mp*

the must-y air ag-ing fur-ther, fa-tigued by card-board,

15

8 wood and dust: still light slanting through the pa-per blinds:

20

8 *mf* sheet mu-sic strewn like fea-thers a - bout the floor,

mf

24

8 bu-ry-ing the emp - ty cel-lo case:

29

8 *mf* a re-flec - tive shard of ro-sin in its vel-vet:

mf

34

the cel - lo breath-ing in_ my gen - tle hands, the

39

bow cut-ting a - cross the string, a cal - li-graph-ers brush

43

paint-ing the sym-pho - ny, the room

47

brim-ming with sound: I

52

8 reach the lights, I splash plas-ter walls:

56

8 *ff* thou-sands of notes

60

8 spill out of win-dows,

mf

63

8 *mp* in - to the street. *rit.*

mp

II. Unintelligible

Reuben Gelley Newman

♩ = 63

Musical score for measures 1-5. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The vocal line begins at measure 5 with the lyrics "One day I mis-hear". The piano accompaniment starts at measure 1. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Musical score for measures 6-9. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "you; now I find de-sire im-bues it be-comes". The piano accompaniment continues. Dynamics include *mp*.

Musical score for measures 10-13. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "now I find de-sire in mu - sic.". The piano accompaniment continues. Dynamics include *mp*.

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c. 3:30 minutes

Nov. 2020

15 *mf*

8 Your mouth kiss-es the mic, and we're high en-er-gy,

19

8 an e-vent ho-ri-zon, a boun-dary a-round a black hole be-

24

8 yond which no light can es cape, no words: you're so close you're un-in-

28

8 tel-li-gi-ble, sound swells in the throat's ca-vi-ty

33

vowels van-ish in the murk of mouth and mic as

This system contains measures 33 through 37. The vocal line begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "vowels van-ish in the murk of mouth and mic as". The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with a melodic line and a left hand with a bass line. A fermata is placed over the final note of the vocal line in measure 37.

38

f con-so-nants dis-solve on the tip of the tongue;

This system contains measures 38 through 41. The vocal line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "con-so-nants dis-solve on the tip of the tongue;". A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed above the first note. The piano accompaniment features a right hand with a melodic line and a left hand with a bass line.

42

p I mouth your words;

This system contains measures 42 through 45. The vocal line begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "I mouth your words;". A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is placed above the first note. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with a melodic line and a left hand with a bass line. A fermata is placed over the final note of the vocal line in measure 45.

46

your words slip-stream me. How can I miss a

This musical system covers measures 46 to 49. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 8/8. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a soprano '8' marking. The lyrics are: 'your words slip-stream me. How can I miss a'. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand treble clef and a left-hand bass clef. The right hand plays a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

50

man_ I've_ nev - er met?

This musical system covers measures 50 to 53. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 8/8. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a soprano '8' marking. The lyrics are: 'man_ I've_ nev - er met?'. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand treble clef and a left-hand bass clef. The right hand plays a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

III. World of Echo

Reuben Gelley Newman

♩ = 116

8 *mf*

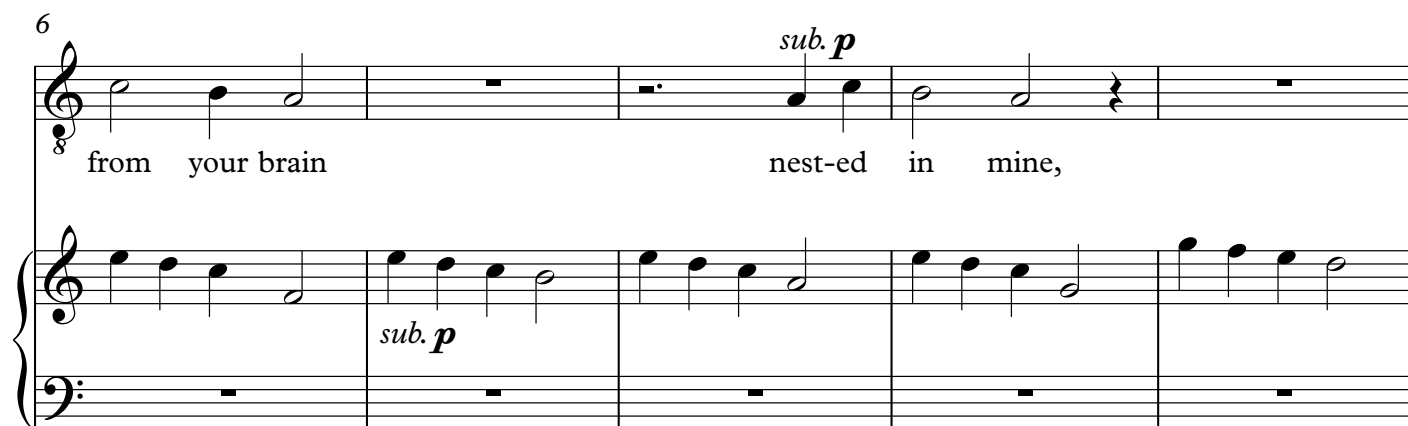
All that glitt - ers, a me-lo-dy leap-ing



6 *sub. p*

from your brain nest-ed in mine,

sub. p



11

a hare whose ears an - swer



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c. 1 minute

Oct. 2020

16

8

f

to the strain of your cell-o.

f

sub. p

21

8

mf

mp

Ba-by li-on goes where the is-lands go, you tell me. Where the

mf

mp

26

8

mp

is - lands go. Where the is - lands. Where the. Where.

mp

IV. Echo delays the onset of a sound in air long enough to engender perceptibility

Reuben Gelley Newman

♩. = 88

your voi-ces bent o-ver

mf

8va

This system contains measures 1 through 6. The vocal line begins in measure 5 with the lyrics "your voi-ces bent o-ver". The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present. An *8va* marking is placed above the piano part in measure 2.

7

the moun-tain, your names ri-cho-chet off the rock

(8)-----|

This system contains measures 7 through 11. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "the moun-tain, your names ri-cho-chet off the rock". The piano accompaniment continues with similar textures. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present. An *8va* marking is placed above the piano part in measure 7.

12

face - so-lid, per-cep-ti ble, — like a song. —

8va-----|

This system contains measures 12 through 16. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics "face - so-lid, per-cep-ti ble, — like a song. —". The piano accompaniment concludes with a final chord and melodic fragment. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present. An *8va* marking is placed above the piano part in measure 12.

18

8

but in-com-pre-hen-si-ble.

8va

♩ = 42

24 dolce

8

mp

this is-n't a rock_song.

mp

30

8

gui-tars are-n't el - ect-ri-fy-ing this poem,

37 ♩ = 88

drums are-n't cav-ern ous in - side. **startle the listener**
startle the singer

ff 8^{va}

43

your voice caves in

8^{va}

49

sink-ing from the air toward lime-stone.

8^{va}

54

year af-ter year

8va

60

your voice e-rides a cass-ette tape tucked a-way

8va

65

in an ar - chive but when ech-oes face the

8va

71

voice ho-vers em - pty con-scious-ness.

8va

V. Tower of Meaning

Reuben Gelley Newman

♩. = 44

8 *mp*

8 Your mus-ic as_____ am

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 and 6 of the piece. The vocal line (treble clef) has a whole rest in measure 5 and a half note in measure 6. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a melodic line in the right hand. Dynamics include *mp* for both parts.

7

8 ri - ta. Im- mor - tal sy-rup, im

Detailed description: This system contains measures 7 and 8. The vocal line (treble clef) has a half note in measure 7 and a half note in measure 8. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues with the eighth-note bass line and melodic line. Dynamics include *mp* for the piano.

13

8 mor - tal light. I hold_____ the song up to my

mf

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 11 and 12. The vocal line (treble clef) has a half note in measure 11 and a half note in measure 12. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a steady eighth-note bass line and a melodic line with some chords. Dynamics include *mf* for both parts.

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c. 3 minutes

Oct. 2020

19

ears, I in - hale light, the kind of light

25

that pours through fir trees in the morn-ing, that bright-ens the laugh

30

wrink - les on a lov - er's face, that sharp-ens the scrawl on a med-ie - val

35

man-u-script.

f

40 *f*

8 I hold the song up to my ears, the

46 *mf*

8 me-lo-dy poised in the crook of the ear. Cocked head.

51 *mp*

8 Clasped hands.

57 *sub. p*

8 Hear-ing but not un-der stand - ing

64

Musical score for measures 64-68. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *mf* and *sub. p*. The key signature has one flat, and the time signature is 8/8.

69

Musical score for measures 69-71. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line contains the lyrics "Not need - - ing". Dynamics include *p*. The piano part continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The key signature has one flat, and the time signature is 8/8.

72

Musical score for measures 72-75. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line contains the lyrics "to un - der-stand.". Dynamics include *p*. The piano part continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The key signature has one flat, and the time signature is 8/8.