

Act Without Words I

(A piano accompaniment for Samuel Beckett's play.)

William Osborne

Scene: Desert. Dazzling light.

Ephemeral and rubato ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 40$)

Act Without Words I

(A piano accompaniment to Samuel Beckett's work.)

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The musical score consists of four systems of piano music.
System 1: Key signature of F# major (one sharp), common time (4/4). Dynamics: 8va , mp , 8va , 15ma . Stage direction: A man is flung backwards on stage from right wing.
System 2: Key signature of F# major (one sharp), common time (4/4). Dynamics: 8va , mp , 8va , sfz , 8va . Stage direction: He falls, gets up immediately, (clusters).
System 3: Key signature of G major (one sharp), common time (4/4). Dynamics: 8va , $rallentando$, mp , 8va , p . Stage direction: dusts himself, turns aside, reflects.
System 4: Key signature of G major (one sharp), common time (4/4). Dynamics: 8va , sfz , 8va , $poco accel.$. Stage direction: Whistle from right wing, He reflects, goes out right.

dusts himself, reflects.

Tempo III(♩.=ca. 60)

16 16

Léo.

Tempo III(♩.=ca. 60)

17 18

Léo. *Léo.*

19

f

Whistle from left wing.

He reflects,

Tempo I goes out left.

20 20

Léo.

8va

Immediately flung back on stage,

8va

18

Léo.

21

f

Léo.

22

f

Léo.

23

f

Léo.

aside, reflects.

24 24

Léo.

Léo.

Whistle from above.

He reflects,

goes toward left wing, hesitates, thinks better of it, halts, turns aside, reflects.

25

f

Léo.

26

f

Léo.

27

f

Léo.

A little tree descends from the flies, lands. It has a single bough some three yards from the ground and at its summit a meager tuft of plums casting at its foot a circle of shadow.

29 29

poco rall.

Léo.

8vb

Whistle from above. He continues to reflect.

He turns, sees tree,

reflects, goes to it, sits down in its shadow, looks at hands.

30

f

Léo.

31

f

Léo.

32

f

Léo.

Tempo III

mp

A pair of tailor's scissors descends from flires, comes to rest before tree, a yارد from ground. He continues to look at his hands. Whistle from above.

The palms close like a parasol, the shadow disappears.

He drops the scissors, reflects.

A tiny carafe, to which is attached a huge label inscribed water, descends from flies, comes to rest some three yards from ground.

Whistle from above.
He continues to reflect.

He looks up, sees carafe, reflects, gets up, goes and stands under it, tries in vain to reach it,

A big cube descends from flies, lands. He continues to reflect.

renounces, turns aside, reflects.

Whistle from above.

He turns, sees cube, looks at it,

at carafe, reflects,

goes to cube, takes it up,
carries it over and
sets it down under carafe, tests its stability,
gets up on it,
tries in vain
to reach carafe,

50 6 16 50 6 16 50 6 16 50 6 16 50 6 16

Leo. Leo. Leo. * senza pedale Leo.

remonces,
gets down, carries cube back
to its place, turns aside, reflects.

56 3 8 4 8 4 8 5 8 3 8 5 8 3 8 5 8

Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo.

A second smaller cube descends from flies, lands. He continues to reflect.
8va - - - - - Whistle from above.

He turns, sees second cube, looks at carafe,
goes to second cube,
Come sopra

63 6 16 63 6 16 63 6 16

p * senza pedale

takes it up, carries it over and sets it down under carafe,

68 8va - - - - - 5 8va - - - - - 5 8va - - - - - 5 8va - - - - - 5

tests its stability, gets up on it,
tries in vain to reach carafe,
renounces, gets down, takes up second cube to carry it back to its place,
thinks better of it, sets it down,
goes to big cube, takes it up, carries it over and
Come sopra

68 8va - - - - - 5 8va - - - - - 5 8va - - - - - 5 8va - - - - - 5

8va - - - - - 5 8va - - - - - 5 8va - - - - - 5 8va - - - - - 5

mp mp mp mp

Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo.

Reflective (lo stesso tempo)

76 8 3 8 3

* senza pedale 8 3

76 8 3 8 3

puts it on small one,
tests their stability, gets up on them,

Tempo II
($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 50$)

80 80 80 80

$\text{G}\text{ treble clef}$ Bass clef $\text{G}\text{ treble clef}$ Bass clef

8vb 8va

Rwd.

the cubes collapse,

he falls,

gets up immediately,

8va

f $rall. e dim.$

sfz sfz (clusters)

12

6 5

Poco meno mosso ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 90$) brushes himself, reflects.

83 83

$\text{G}\text{ treble clef}$ Bass clef

$rall. e dim.$ 6 16 6 16

mp Rwd. Rwd. Rwd. Rwd. Rwd. Rwd. Rwd. Rwd. Rwd. Rwd.

He takes up small cube,

Tempo II ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 50$)

89 89

$\text{G}\text{ treble clef}$ Bass clef

$crescendo$

puts it on big one,
tests their stability,

gets up on them and is about to reach for carafe when

8va

8va

it is pulled up a little way and
comes to rest beyond his reach.

He gets dwon, reflects,

$(\text{single 8th note triplet} = 16\text{th})$

8va

carries cubes back to their place, one by one, turns aside, reflects.

Tempo IV ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$)

95 95

$\text{G}\text{ treble clef}$ Bass clef

mf

6

A third still smaller cube descends from flies, lands.

8va

8va

He continues to reflect.

3

mp

Rwd. Rwd. Rwd. Rwd. Rwd. Rwd.

whistle
from above

He turns, sees third cube, looks
at it, reflects, turns aside, reflects.

105 105

$\text{G}\text{ treble clef}$ Bass clef

5

3

3

$\leftarrow \rightleftarrows$

3

5

3

3

6

mp

Rwd. Rwd. Rwd. Rwd. Rwd.

The third cube is pulled up and disappears in flies.

Beside carafe a rope descends from flies, with knots to facilitate ascent. He continues to reflect.

Whistle from above. He turns, sees rope, reflects, goes to it, climbs up it and

Ecitato; molto ritmico (presto)

(trill half step above note)

(trill half step above note)

He reflects, looks around for scissors, sees them, goes and picks them up,

Reflective; non meno mosso

is about to reach it when

rope is let out and deposits him back on ground.

5

returns to rope and starts to cut it with scissors.

150

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153

(trill half step above note)

154

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(trill half step above note)

158

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164

(trill whole step above note)

165

166

167

168

ff

sforzando

f

169

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171

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(trill half step above note)

succeeds in cutting rope, falls back on ground,
PII -

(clusters) Leo. gets up again immediately, brushes himself

reflects. The rope is pulled up quickly and disappears in flies.
Reflective; non meno mosso

8va -

8va -

With the length of rope in his possession he makes a lasso with which he

tries to lasso carafe. The carafe is pulled up quickly and disappears in flies.

He turns aside, reflects.

He goes with lasso in his hand to tree, looks at bough,

turns and looks at cubes,

rall. e dim. ←

looks again at bough,

drops lasso, goes to cubes, takes up small one,

carries it over and sets it down under bough, goes back for big one, takes it up and carries it over under bought, makes to put it on small one, hesitates, thinks better of it, sets it down, takes up small one and puts it on big one, tests their stability,

(8va)

213 *crescendo* (trill half step above note) 32 Leo. PII Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo.

218 turns aside and stoops to pick up lasso. The bough folds down against the trunk. He straightens up with lasso in his hand, turns and sees what has happened. **Come sopra**

218 ff 32 mp 8va 3 Leo. Leo.

225 3 3 Whistle from right wing. **Tempo II** He reflects, goes out right. Immediately flung back on stage

225 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 Leo. Leo.

231 3 12 Leo. Leo.

he falls, 8va gets up immediately, brushes himself, turns aside, reflects.

235 6 sfp 6 Whistle from left wing. He looks at his hands, looks around for scissors, He does not move. **Chorale; tranquil** sees them, goes and picks them up, starts to trim his nails, stops, reflects,

235 sfp 5 3 mp (chords broken from bottom) Leo. Leo. Leo. (simile) Leo.

runs his finger along blade of scissors, goes and lays them on small cube, turns aside, opens his collar, frees his neck and fingers it.

244

245 9/16 *mp*

246 8vb

247

248

The small cube is pulled up and disappears in flies, carrying away rope and scissors. He turns to take scissors, sees what has happened.

249

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252

p

(To skip the instrumental section
go to the coda sign on page 14.) D.S. al Coda

He goes and sits down on big cube.

253

254

255

256

A trombone (or other instrument) descends from the flies.

Cantabile

He takes the trombone and plays.

257

258

259

260

262

8va

8va

8va

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262

268

(*8va*)

8va

8va

268

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274

The trombone is pulled from his hands and disappears in flies.

8va

8va

8va

8va

8va

f

5

The cube is pulled from under him.

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3

He looks at his hands.

302

8va-

302

morendo poco a poco

306

8va-

306

Frühling 1986, Kleinhöhenrain