

# Act Without Words I

A piano accompaniment to Samuel Beckett's work.

William Osborne

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Scene: Desert. Dazzling light.

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

Musical score for the first section, marked "Ephemeral and rubato ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 40$ )". The score is written for piano and features a complex, rhythmic texture with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *sfz*, and *sva*. There are also performance instructions like "(4)", "(5)", and "(P)". A bracketed section is marked with an asterisk and the word "(hold)".

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

A man is flung backwards on stage from right wing.

+ He falls, gets up immediately, +

Musical score for the second section, marked "Tempo II; più mosso ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 50$ )". The score is written for piano and features a more rhythmic texture with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *sfz*, and *sva*. There are also performance instructions like "(5)", "(4)", and "(P)". A bracketed section is marked with an asterisk. The score includes performance instructions like "(5)", "(4)", and "(P)".

Tempo I

dusts himself, turns aside, reflects.

+ Whistle from right wing

+ He reflects, ||

Tempo II

goes out right.

sva  
sfz mp  
p poco accel.  
3

Immediately flung back on stage, + he falls, gets up immediately,

Tempo III (F=ca. 120)

( $\frac{5}{2}F = F$ )

mp  
sfz  
sva  
6=d  
5=d  
3=d  
12=d  
sva  
6=d  
5=d  
5=d  
4

dusts himself, reflects.  
sempre poco rubato

+ Whistle from left wing

+ He reflects, ||

Tempo I

goes out left,

( $F = \frac{5}{2}F$ )

mp  
sfz  
sva  
5=d  
5=d  
4

Immediately flung back on stage

+ he falls, gets up immediately,

Grazioso

+ dusts himself, turns

sva  
mp  
sfz  
sva  
6=d  
3=d  
6=d  
18=d  
6=d  
3=d  
6=d  
3=d  
3  
mp  
3=d  
4

aside, reflects. + Whistle from above + He reflects,

Musical score for the first system, featuring piano accompaniment and vocal melody. The piano part includes chords and arpeggios, while the vocal part has various ornaments and dynamics. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

goes toward left wing, hesitates, thinks better of it, halts, turns aside, reflects. + A little tree descends from the flies, lands. It has a single bough some three yards from ground and at its summit a meager tuft of palms casting at its foot a circle of shadow. + He continues to reflect. Whistle from above + He turns, sees tree, *Tempo III*

Musical score for the second system, including the instruction "poco rallantando" and "Tempo III". The piano part continues with arpeggiated figures, and the vocal part has more complex ornaments. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

reflects, goes to it, sits down in its shadow, looks at hands. + A pair of tailor's scissors descends from flies, comes to rest before tree, a yard from ground. He continues to look at his hands. whistle from above

Musical score for the third system, featuring piano accompaniment and vocal melody. The piano part includes chords and arpeggios, while the vocal part has various ornaments and dynamics. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

He looks up, sees scissors, takes them and starts to trim his nails. + The palms close like a parasol, the shadow disappears. He drops the scissors, reflects.

Musical score for the fourth system, featuring piano accompaniment and vocal melody. The piano part includes chords and arpeggios, while the vocal part has various ornaments and dynamics. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

Tempo II

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

He continues to reflect. Whistle from above

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

+ renounces, turns aside, reflects.

Both hands sva.

Musical score for the first system, featuring piano and bass staves with complex rhythmic patterns and fingerings. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings like *sfz*, *p*, and *mp*. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

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

+ Whistle from above + He turns, sees cube, looks at it,

Musical score for the second system, continuing the piano and bass staves with similar complex patterns. It includes dynamic markings like *mp* and *p*, and various musical notations such as slurs and accents. The key signature remains one sharp.

at carafe, reflects,  $\#(2)$  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

Musical score for the third system, featuring piano and bass staves with complex patterns and a "senza pedale" instruction. It includes dynamic markings like *p* and *mp*, and various musical notations such as slurs and accents. The key signature remains one sharp.

to reach carafe, + renounces, +  $\#(3)$  gets down, carries cube back

+ to its place, turns aside, reflects.

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

sva

Musical score for the fourth system, featuring piano and bass staves with complex patterns and a "sva" instruction. It includes dynamic markings like *mp* and *p*, and various musical notations such as slurs and accents. The key signature remains one sharp.



Poco meno mosso (♩=ca. 90)

Tempo II (♩=ca. 50)

brushes himself, + reflects. + + + + + #<sup>(3)</sup> He takes up small cube,

musical notation with piano accompaniment and vocal line. Includes dynamic markings *mp* and *senza pedale*.

puts it on big one, tests their stability,

+ gets up on them and is about to + reach cafe when + +

musical notation with piano accompaniment and vocal line. Includes dynamic markings *crescendo* and *zba*.

Tempo IV (♩=ca. 60)

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

+ He gets + down, + reflects, #<sup>(3)</sup>

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

musical notation with piano accompaniment and vocal line. Includes dynamic markings *mf* and *mp*.

A third still smaller cube descends from flies, lands. He continues to reflect. zva

+ Whistle from above #<sup>(3)</sup>

+ He turns, sees third cube, looks at it, reflects, turns aside, reflects. #<sup>(3)</sup>

musical notation with piano accompaniment and vocal line. Includes dynamic markings *mp* and various rhythmic annotations like *3=♩*, *5=d*, *6=♩*.

(3) (4) + The third cube is pulled up and disappears in flies. + (2) Beside carafe a rope + (2) descends from flies,

Musical notation for the first system, including piano (p) and forte (f) dynamics, triplets, and sixteenth-note passages.

Ecitato; molto ritmico (presto)

with knots to facilitate ascent. He continues to whistle. He turns, sees rope, reflects, goes to it, climbs up it and

Musical notation for the second system, marked "Ecitato; molto ritmico (presto)", featuring rapid sixteenth-note runs and piano (p) dynamics.

tr

Musical notation for the third system, featuring trills and piano (p) dynamics.

+ + + + is about to reach carafe when +

Musical notation for the fourth system, featuring trills and piano (p) dynamics.

Reflective; non meno mosso

rope is let out and deposits him back on ground.

+ # (4) He reflects, looks around for + scissors, sees them, goes + and picks them + up, + +

Musical score for the first system, featuring piano and treble clefs with various musical notations like triplets and slurs.

Come sopra

(2) returns to rope and starts to (3) cut it with scissors.

+(2) + +

Musical score for the second system, including piano and treble clefs with wavy lines and musical notations.

+ + + (3) + (5)

(3) (5) The rope is pulled up, rope is pulled up it is firm all ground.

Musical score for the third system, including piano and treble clefs with wavy lines and musical notations.

he hangs on, + # (2) + + + + + (3) + (2)

Musical score for the fourth system, including piano and treble clefs with wavy lines and musical notations.

Musical score for the first system. The piano accompaniment consists of chords marked with asterisks (\*). The vocal line features triplets (3) and slurs over various notes.

(2) (3) + + succeeds in cutting rope, falls back on ground, drops

Musical score for the second system. The piano accompaniment includes chords marked with asterisks. The vocal line features trills and slurs. Performance instructions include "trills" and "sua". A section is marked "PII".

Reflective (nonmeno mosso)

scissors, falls, gets up again + immediately, brushes himself, (4) reflects. The rope is pulled + up quickly and disap- + pears in flies. + +

Musical score for the third system. The piano accompaniment includes chords marked with asterisks. The vocal line features triplets (3) and slurs. A section is marked "(4) mp".

With 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.

Musical score for the fourth system. The piano accompaniment includes chords marked with asterisks. The vocal line features triplets (3) and slurs. Performance instructions include "sua" and "mf".

He turns aside, reflects. + + + + He goes with lasso in his hand to tree, looks at bough, + turns and looks at cubes, +

*mp*

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 bough,

*mp*

*triumphant*

*crescendo*

*f*

PII

Presto

makes to put it on small one, hesitates, thinks + puts it on big one, 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.

(f-f)

(p)

(simile)

8ba

Come sopra

He drops lasso, turns + aside, reflects. He + carries back cubes to + their place, one by one, + goes back for lasso, + carries it over to cubes + and lays it in a neat coil on small one.

*mp*

Tempo II

He turns aside, reflects. + Whistle from right wing + He reflects, goes out right. Immediately flung back on stage

3=d, 6=d, 5=d, 6=d, 5=d, 3=d, 12=d

*mp*, *crescendo*

Chorale; tranquil

he falls, gets up immediately, brushes himself, turns aside, reflects. + Whistle from left wing + He does not move. He looks at his hands, looks around for scissors, + sees them, goes and picks them up, starts to trim his nails,

8va, 5 1/2, 3, 7 3/4

*mp* (Chords broken from bottom.)

\* \* \* \* (simile)

stops, reflects, + (9) 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. The small

6=d, 6=d, 5=d, 3=d, 5=d, 3=d

*mp*, *8ba*

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

8va, 6=d, 6=d, 5=d, 3=d

*p*, *accelerando e crescendo*

Cantabile

He goes and sits down on big cube.

The cube is pulled from under him.

He falls. The big cube is pulled up and disappears in

flies. He remains lying on his side, his face toward auditorium, staring before him.

6=5, 5=5, 6=5, 6=5, 5=5, 3=5, 12=5, 5=5

*sfz*, *mp*, *sfz*

(\* See appendix for optional instrumental theatre insert.)

The carafe descends from flies and comes to rest a few feet from his body.

He does not move. Whistle from above He does not move. The carafe descends further, dangles and plays about his face. He does not move.

The carafe

*sva*, *sva*, *sva*

is pulled up and disappears in flies.

The bough returns to horizontal, the palms open, the shadow returns.

Whistle from above He does not move.

*sva*

The tree is pulled up and disappears in the flies.

He looks at his hands.

*morendo poco a poco*, *sva*

8Va

8V2

The musical score consists of two systems of staves. The first system is marked '8Va' and the second '8V2'. The music is written in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The upper staves feature complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and quintuplets, while the lower staves feature sustained chords and a bass line. The notation includes various accidentals and dynamic markings.

Frühling 1986  
Kleinhöhenrain

Appendix: optional insert for instrumental theatre. (Trombone)

+ A trombone descends from flies.†

†

‡ He takes trombone and

† plays.

7 \* 6=5 6=5 6=5 3=2 5=4 3=2 3=2 mp

mp 2va 5=4 3=2 3=2 3=2 3=2 3=2 3=2 3=2 3=2 \*

2va 3=2 3=2 3=2 3=2 3=2 3=2 3=2 3=2 3=2 3=2 3=2 3=2 \*

3=2 \*

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

6=5 6=5 7 \* \*

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