

Vocal Crisis

For Flute with Live Electronics

by Joshua Hahn

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“Vocal Crisis' means a crisis in the voice, but it also means articulate crisis, crisis given voice. Hardly an interruption of diva art, vocal crisis is the diva's self-lacerating announcement that interruption has been, all along, her subject and method" (Wayne Koestenbaum, *The Queen's Throat* pp.128-9). The possession of a voice is inseparable from narratives of crisis. The voice may undergo an untimely interruption, faltering without warning, betraying a self that is alien, incapable of meeting societal expectations. But crisis also has a voice of its own, one that forces a state of inner trauma into the public realm. In *Vocal Crisis* (2012) the computer is a temperamental mouthpiece for the flute, at times speaking for the flute, and at other times distorting the flute by responding in a discontinuous, unpredictable manner. The flute's gradual separation from the computer is not merely a crisis of voice, but an unveiling of the inner workings of a vocal instrument.

Duration: 8'

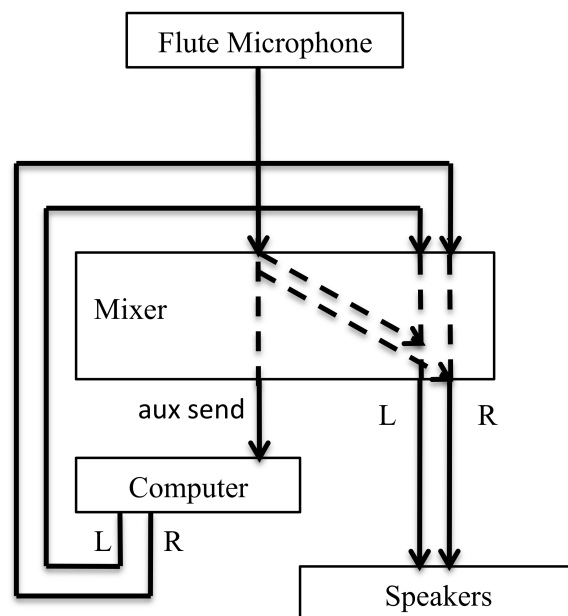
Technical Requirements:

- 1) One microphone
- 2) A computer that runs Max 6 or Max 6 runtime, a free read-only version of Max 6 available from cycling74.com
- 3) Stereo loudspeaker system

Optional:

- 4) A mixing board (allowing for the unprocessed sound of the flute to be mixed and carefully balanced with the electronic sounds)

When a mixing board is used, the following diagram may be used as a model for an effective setup:



Description of the electronic component:

The main electronic component is a dynamic buzzing sound that plays in unison with flute and serves to modulate its timbre. Buzzing sounds displaced by an octave in either direction and "chords" of buzzing sounds are also added to the flute's sound in separate parts of the piece. Recordings of processed flute sounds are also used.

This piece is designed to be executed by a performer without an assistant. Events are triggered either by particular pitches or by the rests between individual phrases.

A pedal may be used in place of or in conjunction with the computer score following.

The player should tune before beginning the piece to lessen the chance of computer error.

Vocal Crisis

for flute with live electronics

Joshua Hahn

$\text{♩} = 60$
misterioso

Flute
p mf > p f mp f pp mp > p

Electronics
Cue 1: dynamic buzzing in unison

6
Fl. violent, physical
mf pp f mf > p

Ele.

11
Fl. dolce
mp mf > mp mp < mf > p mp mf p < mf > mp

Ele.

16
Fl.
mp < mf p > pp mp mf > mp < mf f p <

Ele.

20
Fl. violent, physical
mf p > pp f

Ele.

24
Fl. 3
Ele.

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27
Fl.
Ele.

30
Fl.
Ele.

33
Fl.
Ele.

36
Fl.
Ele.

[Finger low F]

dolce

mf *p*

Cue 2: no electronics

Cue 3: dynamic buzzing in unison

40
Fl.
Ele.

violent, physical

p

43
Fl.
Ele.

[Finger high F]

dolce

f *mp* *p*

harm. gliss. harm. gliss.

Cue 4: no electronics

48 *alla marcia*

Fl.

Ele.

53

Fl.

Ele.

57 *morendo* ----- *molto rubato*

Fl.

Ele.

63

Fl.

Ele.

70

Fl.

Ele.

78

Fl. *dolce*

Ele. (Wait until whistle tones stop)

Cue 7: dynamic buzzing in unison

f mp f pp mp

84

Fl. [Finger low A]

Ele. Cue 8: no electronics

Cue 9: duet (in time)

p mf mp mf mf p p

$\text{♩} = 60$

90

Fl. *f mp f mf mp fp mp fp*

Ele.

95

Fl. *mf fp mf p mf p mf*

Ele.

violent,
physical

99

Fl. *mp* *f* *p* *f*

Ele. Cue 10: buzzing "chord"

104

Fl. *ff* *f*

Ele.

106

Fl. *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

Ele.

108

Fl. *p* *mf* *rit.* *a tempo*

Ele. *pp* *mf*

111

Fl. *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf*

Ele.

frenzied

113

Fl. *ff*

Ele. Cue 11: dynamic buzzing in unison

116

Fl. *f*

Ele.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 116 to 119. The flute part features a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 117. The elephant staff is a wavy line.

120

Fl. *f*

Ele.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 120 to 123. The flute part continues with eighth-note patterns and slurs. The elephant staff is a wavy line.

123

Fl. *f*

Ele.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 123 to 126. The flute part features eighth-note patterns and slurs. The elephant staff is a wavy line.

126

Fl. *f*

Ele. *ff*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 126 to 129. The flute part continues with eighth-note patterns. The elephant staff has a wavy line and a dynamic marking of *ff* with a hairpin.

129

Fl. *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *harm. gliss.*

Ele. *f* *ff*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 129 to 132. The flute part includes a harmonic glissando in measure 131. The elephant staff has a wavy line and dynamic markings of *f* and *ff* with hairpins.