

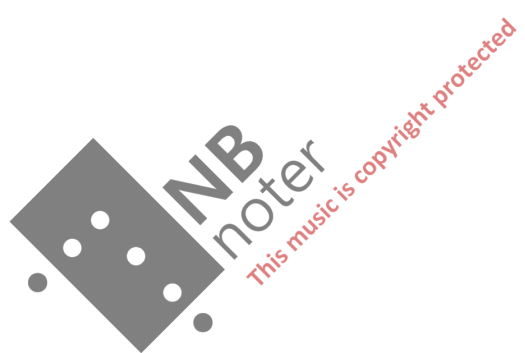
TZE YEUNG HO

**one day, i left behind all the
skeletons within these walls**

For two low voices, erhu and piano



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某一天,我遺下牆後的屍骸

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for two low voices, erhu and piano

Tze Yeung Ho
(1992 -)

Duration: 8'

Composer's Notes:

Completed in the late summer of 2014, this piece marks the first work I have completed since leaving my former home in Toronto. *skeleton* is not truly a tribute to my own experiences. Rather, it is a short commentary on abandonment. The piece is in monochrome but colourfully highlighted with erhu as the lead accompanist. The use of erhu has little to do with representations of a Chinese sound; it is simply treated as a unique colour juxtaposed against spoken voices.

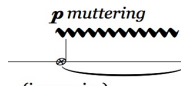
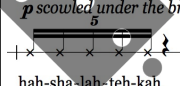
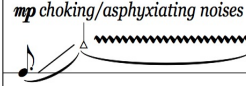
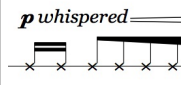
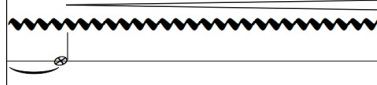
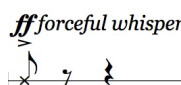
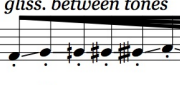
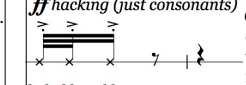
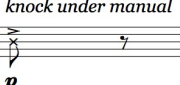
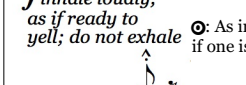
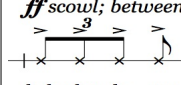
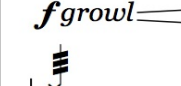
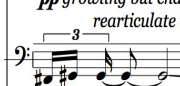
Performance Notes:

for the low voices:

It is vital that the two low voices do not engage in physical expressions beyond producing the desired sounds. Where possible, the voices should maintain focus on the music stand and remain unfazed by any musical or non-musical disruptions during the performance. Shall they need to guide entrances or to lead releases, avoid dramatic movements beyond breath and eye contacts. The only permitted moment of theatrics is at the last bar of the piece, where both performers leave the stage holding their breaths.

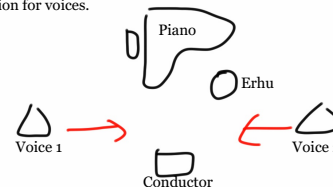
Many of the syllabics are arbitrary. Unless it is indicated that the desired sound is a pure consonant 'hack' or actual words, performers may alter the syllabics during the performance. Evidently, softer passages are more effective with closed vowels and louder passages with open vowels.

special notations + instructions for all performers:

 p muttering (improvise) ③: Mutter random syllabics; the less comprehensible the better. Follow dynamics markings indicated.	 p scowled under the breath ③: Create a guttural sound while maintaining a soft dynamic. hah-sha-lah-teh-kah	 mp choking/asphyxiating noises ③: Improvise on noises similar to a choking person. Do not express the choking visually. Simply imitate the sound.
 p whispered ③: Whisper indicated syllabics, follow rhythms indicated by beams. Do not worry if not all syllabics are articulated correctly. ah shi la yu pa to sha kwe ta mæ	 sffz yelled ③: Increase whisper intensity until a yell; the sound may be linear from whisper to grunting to speech to yelling. ksya!	
 ff forceful whisper ③: Forceful whisper = "shouting" a whisper. Muffled voice as in a whisper, but loud. hah!	 gliss. between tones ③: Slide between quarter tones. Follow the contours of the lines, but pitch results may vary. Much bow. scratchy	 ff hacking (just consonants) ③: Hacking, as in coughing out something from the throat. Where possible, minimize body movement. hak-kk - kk
 sf Ped. ③: Slam right pedal of piano as hard as possible to create an echoing effect.	 knock under manual ③: Use knuckles to knock on a resonant part of the piano. Under the far left of the piano manual is preferred.	 f inhale loudly, as if ready to yell; do not exhale ③: As indicated. Breathe in as if one is ready to project loudly.
 ff scowl; between teeth ③: Scowl; as in making a rough, metallic vocal sound. Grit teeth and do not open mouth fully. hah-sha - la - ssa	 n press down silently ③: Depress indicated pitches silently so that harmonics may occur when other musical events resonate.	
 f growl = ff ③: Create a guttural throat sound that is similar to a dog's growl.	 pp growling but chant-like rearticulate with glottal stop ③: The 'uh-uh' pitch repetition is to be projected by glottal stop instead of tongue or breath. yi - uh - uh	

Stage Set-up:

Red arrows indicate line of vision for voices.



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某一天,我遺下牆後的屍骸

for two low voices, erhu and piano

Tze Yeung Ho
(1992 -)

Slowly ♩ = 58
p plaintive
spoken; between teeth

Voice 1 And, he left... (improvise)

Voice 2 And they left...

Erhu

Piano *p* ringing

Red.

C *ff* forceful whisper *mf* muttering

V 1 *ff* forceful whisper

V 2 *p* whispered *ff* forceful whisper *f* whispered

ah shi la yu pa to sha kwe ta mæ hah! ah shi la yu pa to

Er. *ff* forceful whisper

Pno. *p* ringing

D *sf* *Red.*

V 1 *ff* screaming

V 2 *ff* growl

Er.

Pno. *p* plaintive *p* ringing

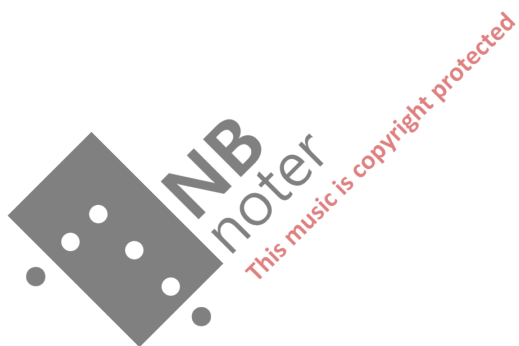
sha lya

hah-sha - la - ssa

ff scowl; between teeth

ff

Ped.



V 1

V 2

Er. *p* *mp* plaintive *mf* *p* *mp*

Pno. *pp* *p* in an undertone

Ped.

13

V 1 *ff* yelling *mf* muttered; between teeth

hah! ts-tuh - pya

V 2 *ff* yelling *mf* muttered; between teeth

ka tsya! ts-tuh - pya

Er. *p* *mp* *mf* *pp* *p* plain *pp*

Pno. *mp* flowing *pp* *p*

light pedal

Ped.

16

V 1 *ff* shouting; between teeth

sha-fah-ti-la-shya-pah

V 2 *ff* groaning; between teeth

ng-tn - gn - in - ya - cha

Er. *f* *mp* wistful *pp*

Pno. *mf* *pp* plaintive

Ped.

19 *ff* yelling; between teeth *pp* muttering; between teeth

V 1 fah-lah- tuhk!

V 2 *ff* yelling shya! *f* muttering; between teeth

Er.

Pno. *pp* plain
pedal lightly *p* lightly

22 *pp* whispered

V 1 will he be back?

V 2 *p* scowled under the breath
hah-sha-lah-teh-kah

Er. *mp* expr.

Pno. *mf* tenderly *fp*
with pedal

25

V 1 *f* forceful whisper
hah-shah!

V 2 *pp* muttering
(improvise) *f* scowl
kah!

Er. *pp* *p* *fp* *pp* *p*

Pno. *pp* lightly *ppp*

28

V 1 *f* yelled
ksya!

V 2 *f* yelled
hah!

Er. *pp* *mp* *p* lean in *mf* *fp*

Pno. *p* *pp* lean in *p* *mp* *fp*

with pedal

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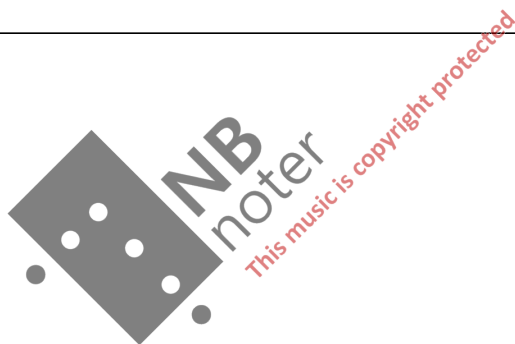
V 1 *mp* mumbled *p* *f* *mp* forced whisper *p* muttering
 sha - tha - bha - cha - rha ksa tu - vu - le - hu ha - la - ma (improvise)

V 2 *mp* mumbled *p* *f* *sf* muttering
 sta - bah - mah te - la - yi - lya ksye si

Er. *sff* *pp* *f* intense *pp* port.

Pno. *p*

sf *Red.*



V 1 *sf* forced whisper *pp* *f* *n* muttering
 shah! (improvise)

V 2 *sf* forced whisper *pp* *f* *n* muttering
 shah! (improvise)

Er. *p* *ff* shah!

Pno. *pp* gently *pp* tenderly *sf* *Red.*

without pedal

37

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

pp muttering

pp muttering

f agitated

mp *ppp* *pp*

5 delicate

Red.

40

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

f *p* *f* rough *p* *mf*

mf swelling

mp brittle *f*

42

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

f *mf* *ff* almost scratchy *fff*

pp muttering

ff rough *sffz* *sffz*

45

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

(improvised)

(improvised)

ppp

ppp

pp tender *ppp* lightly

48

V 1 *pp* whispered *ppp*
ha-ra-sha ha-ra-sha ha sha

V 2 *pp* muttering
(improvised)

Er. *mf* full *pp* *mp* full

Pno. *mp* tenderly *fp* *p*

51

V 1 *mf* interrupting *pp* *ff* yelled
ra-ka-sha-ka-ra-ta-ta-ta ka sha ha-ka-sha

V 2 *pp* muttering

Er. *sf* *p* singing

Pno. *p* lightly still *pp* *mp* *3* with pedal

54

V 1 *sffz yelled* sha-kah-lah! *sffz yelled* ssa-ka-tsyah!

V 2 *sffz yelled* ksyah!

Er. *ff* *mp* *f intense*

Pno. *mf* *mp* *f intense*

57

V 1 *mf spoken plainly* ha-la-ma *ff yelled*

V 2 *mf spoken plainly* and with-out a-ny-thing... *ff yelled*

Er. *mf* *fp ff harsh* *f*

Pno. *fp* *f bright* *ff* *sffz* *sffz brutal*

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60

accel.
ff hacking (yelling), with rage between teeth

V 1

ka-ta-ssa sha-la-tsye ga ku-teh ha-keh-sye hu-shu-teh tu-peh-ki

V 2

sha-lak-tah

Er.

fp **f** **p** nasal and scratchy

Pno.

f bright **ff** as brutal as possible

5 3 5

12

62

fp forced-whisper; between teeth **ppp**

V 1

ha-la-ma wu-fu-sha-lah ha ti-ma-ka-la

V 2

ku-teh-yu-ti **ppp** muttering

Er.

ff **f** rough **p** gliss.

Pno.

fff savage

5

sf **ped.**

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First Tempo ♩ = 58

65

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

(improvised)

n. *ppp* muffled growl

pizz.

fp let ring

① knock under manual

p

n press down silently

pp ominous, dry without pedal

3

3

3

3



68

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

n.

3

3

3

3

5

pp tenderly

L *pp* growling but chant-like
rearticulate with glottal stop

71

V 1

yi - uh - uh

V 2

ppp muffled growl

Er.

p *f*

Pno.

pp tenderly

sfz *Red.*

M *mp* choking/asphyxiating noises

74

V 1

yi-uh uh

V 2

pp forced whisper

Hah - la-ma-shya

Er.

Pno.

mp *pp*

pp ominous *fp*

sfz *Red.*

with heavy pedal

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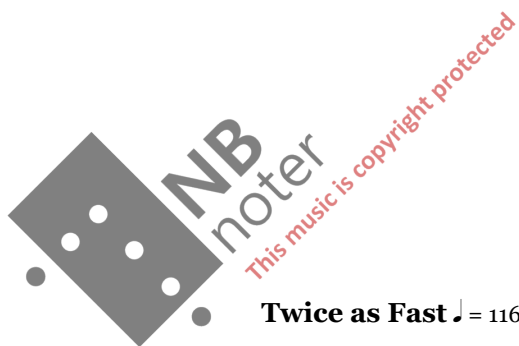
77

V 1 *mf* choking/asphyxiating noises

V 2 *mp* snickering noises
huh - kuh-he - he *pp* growling

Er. (pizz.) *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Pno. *fp* *n* press down silently *pp* dry Ped.



Twice as Fast ♩ = 116

80

V 1 *ff* *n.*

V 2 *n.*

Er. *arco* *f* rough *ff* frantic

Pno. *f* rough *ff* frantic *without pedal*

First Tempo ♩ = 58
ff yelled 16

83

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

ff yelled

hah!

hah!

sffz

5

5



86

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

pp growling but chant-like
 rearticulate with glottal stop

hah!

ppp muffled growl

pizz.

p

knock under manual

pp ominous, dry

sf

Red.

yi - uh - uh

n

3

3

3

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17

mp choking/asphyxiating noises

V 1 89

V 2 *mp* snickering noises

huh - kuh - he-he he-he-he

Er.

Pno. *n* press down silently *p* tenderly

Twice as Fast ♩ = 116

V 1 92 *ff* screaming Ah! Ah!

V 2 *ff* screaming Ah! Ah!

Er. *arco* *ff* frantic *pizz.* *p* let ring

Pno. *ff* frantic

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First Tempo ♩ = 58

mp choking/asphyxiating noises

18

95

V 1 *mp* choking/asphyxiating noises

V 2 *pp* whispered
sha

Er. *arco*
mf plaintive

Pno. *pp* tenderly
mp
pp
heavy pedal

98

V 1 *mp* choking/asphyxiating noises

V 2 *p* whispered
ha-la-ma-ga ha-la-ma-ga ha-la-ma

Er. *f*
p
pp

Pno. *p* plaintive
knock under manual
p
pp ominous, dry

Red. *3*

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101

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

ha - la - ma

ha - la

fff scream in agony

Ah!

ppp frail voice

pp growl

fff

ppp light

ff rough

f very expressive

ppp light

fff p

fffz

f expressive

Same Tempo, Expressive

104 *mf* chant-like, in pitch but almost grunting

V 1

Ee oo aa nii uu

mf chant-like, in pitch but almost grunting

V 2

Aa ee ii oo uu

Er.

Pno.

fp rough *sf* *fp* broad *f*

107

V 1 *sf* hacking Ack! Ack!

V 2 *f* spoken, between teeth 3 3 3 3

Er. 3 3 *ff* very expr. *mp* 3

Pno. *p* 3 *mf* intense 5 3

with pedal

109

V 1 *ff* hacking (just consonants) *p* muttering

V 2 *ff* hacking (just consonants) *p* muttering

Er. *sfz* *p* muttering

Pno. *f* 3 *fp* *sfz* 3 *p* dry 3 *p* expr.

without pedal *fff* savage

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112

V 1 *sffz* forced whisper *pp* muttering; between teeth

V 2 *sffz* forced whisper *pp* muttering; between teeth

Er. *p* lightly *f* *pp* muttering; between teeth

Pno. *pp* *pp* muttering; between teeth *pp* light

ksya!



115

V 1 *pp* muttering; between teeth

V 2 *pp* muttering; between teeth

Er. *pp* muttering; between teeth *pp* *ppp* very light *pp*

Pno. *pp* muttering; between teeth *pp* dry

play

slight pedal

118

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

p *fp* *pp* *p* *pp*

p ringing *pp* *p* *pp*

Red.

121

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

ff hacking *ppp* muttering; imitating erhu *f* shouting

kk! *p* *n* *fp* suddenly *n* *ff*

f expressive

f *Red.*

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124

V 1

sha-ta-kye ksya - ma-sha sha - ta-pa

V 2

mp growl *ff* yelling *ff* scowled; between teeth

kka-sha-tah ha-ta-keh He_ who leaves home.

Er.

f aggressive *ff* expr.

Pno.

ff *ff* harsh heavy pedal *fff* savage without pedal

mp choking/asphyxiating noises

127

V 1

ff shouting aggressively

V 2

fa-sha-hak tak - ka-sha ka-sha

Er.

ff nasal heavy gliss.

Pno.

pp tenderly *ff* rough

Ped.

Repeat as many times as desired

129

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

ha - la - ma ko - du ha ka shata la sha ha - la ma - ga - ta kasa tashafa

3 shrieking

3 *fff*

ff

sf *Red.*

131

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

uk ya - ta-shya ka-sa he - te - ke ha-ka-ta - ka- teh - ha-la

ff panting, gasping for breath

mp choking/asphyxiating noises

ff raging

sf

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Repeat as many times as desired

133

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

ma ha - la - sha - ta - kye sa - ta - ma sa - ta -

sf

3

5

3

134

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

na - weh - teh

ff growl *fffz* long

f muttering *n* (improvise)

f muttering *n* (improvise)

f muttering *n* (improvise)

f muttering *n* (improvise)

long

3

3

3

3

fff

f *Ped.*

one day, i left behind all the skeletons within these walls

137

V 1 *f* muttering *n*

V 2 *f* muttering *n* *n* hushing *mf* *n*
shh

Er. *f* muttering *n*

Pno. *f* muttering *n* *ppp* ominous *n* depress silently

f *Ped.*

140

V 1 *pp* muttering; between teeth

V 2 *n* hushing *mf* *n*
shh

Er. *pizz.*
pp

Pno. *8va*
3 pp tenderly *3*

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143

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

f forced whisper *n* hushing *mf* > *n*

sha shh

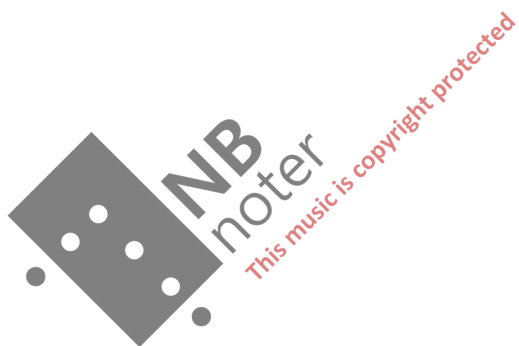
p ringing

5

3

8va

Red.



146

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

mp improvise on breathing noises

pp muttering; between teeth

mp improvise on breathing noises

arco

ppp 3 *f*

knock on piano

3 *mp*

8

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149

V 1

V 2

Er.

pp *p* *pp* *pp* quasi-gliss *p* *pp*

Pno.

pp lightly

pp tenderly

slight pedal

Red.

152

V 1

V 2

Er.

p *f* *n* *f* agitated

Pno.

mp *ppp* *pp*

delicate

Red.

one day, i left behind all the skeletons within these walls

③ *f* inhale loudly, leave stage,
as if ready to still holding breath;
yell; do not exhale do not return
for applause

f inhale loudly, leave stage,
as if ready to still holding breath;
yell; do not exhale do not return
for applause

155

V 1

V 2

Er.

Pno.

f *p* *f* rough *p*

mf swelling

mp brittle *f*

with pedal

without pedal

sf Ped.



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