

(17) WHAT IS THE WORD

(words by Samuel Beckett)

Copyright © 1996 Michael Mantler

Publisher: Ernste Musik

All Rights Reserved

NOTE: concert score, there are no key signatures
accidentals apply to measure and octave only

A $\text{♩} = 106$

[freely] 5 10

voice woman
voice man

trumpet
bass clarinet
guitar

violin 1
violin 2
viola
cello

piano

folly
for to
what is the word

[very sparsely echo voices]

mp gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss.

legato

(ostinato as is throughout
+ can sparsely ad lib accomp to voices)

B

15

20

voc W
voc M
tpt
bcl
guit
vln 1
vln 2
via
cel
pno

25 C 30

voc W
 what is the word this this here this here

voc M
 this what is the word this this all this folly given

tpt

bcl

guit

vin 1
 gliss. gliss.

vin 2
 gliss. gliss.

via
 gliss. gliss.

cel
 gliss. gliss.

pno

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout. The vocal parts (W and M) are at the top, with lyrics written below the notes. The instrumental parts (tpt, bcl, guit, vin 1, vin 2, via, cel, pno) are below. The piano part features a complex accompaniment with triplets and glissandos. The score is divided into measures by vertical dashed lines, with measure numbers 25 and 30 indicated at the top.

35

40

voc W
 seeing seeing all this for to what is the word

voc M
 all this folly this here what is the word

tpt
 bcl
 guit

vln 1
 gliss. gliss.

vln 2
 gliss. gliss.

vla
 gliss. gliss.

cel
 gliss. gliss.

pno

D

voc W: see glimpse seem to glimpse seem to glimpse seem to glimpse
 voc M: need to folly for to need to

tpt: [Empty staff]
 bcl: [Empty staff]
 guit: [Empty staff]
 vln 1: [Musical staff with gliss. marking]
 vln 2: [Musical staff with gliss. marking]
 via: [Musical staff with gliss. marking]
 cel: [Musical staff with gliss. marking]
 pno: [Musical staff with triplets and slurs]

55 E 60 65

voc W
 what what is the word and where folly seem to glimpse what where where

voc M
 what is the word for to need to

tpt

bcl

guit

vin 1
 gliss. gliss.

vin 2
 gliss. gliss.

via
 gliss. gliss.

cel
 gliss. gliss.

pno

F

70

75

The musical score is arranged in a system with the following parts from top to bottom:

- voc W** (Vocal, Soprano): Melody with lyrics: "there over there afar afar afaint afaint afar".
- voc M** (Vocal, Alto): Melody with lyrics: "what is the word away over there away over there away over there".
- tpt** (Trumpet): Rests.
- bcl** (Baritone): Rests.
- guit** (Guitar): Rests.
- vl n 1** (Violin 1): Glissando markings.
- vl n 2** (Violin 2): Glissando markings.
- via** (Viola): Glissando markings.
- cel** (Cello): Glissando markings.
- pno** (Piano): Accompaniment with triplets and rests.

80

G

85

voc W
 what what seeing all this this folly

voc M
 what is the word all this all this this here

tpt
 bcl
 guit

vln 1
 gliss.

vln 2
 gliss.

via
 gliss.

cel
 gliss.

pno

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a piece titled '- what word / 8 -'. It features two vocal parts (voc W and voc M) and instrumental parts for trumpet (tpt), bassoon (bcl), guitar (guit), violin 1 (vln 1), violin 2 (vln 2), viola (via), cello (cel), and piano (pno). The vocal parts have lyrics: 'what what seeing all this this folly' for the vocal W part and 'what is the word all this all this this here' for the vocal M part. The instrumental parts include glissandos for the strings and a piano accompaniment with triplets and rests. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 80 and 85 indicated at the top.

90

H

95

voc W
 for to see what glimpse seem to glimpse seem to glimpse
 voc M
 what is the word need to afaint afar
 tpt
 bcl
 guit
 vln 1
 gliss. gliss.
 vln 2
 gliss. gliss.
 vla
 gliss. gliss.
 cel
 gliss. gliss.
 pno
 3 3 3 3 3

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a piece titled 'what word / 9 -'. It features two vocal parts, 'voc W' (soprano) and 'voc M' (alto), and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'for to see what glimpse seem to glimpse seem to glimpse' for the soprano and 'what is the word need to afaint afar' for the alto. The instrumental parts include trumpet (tpt), trombone (bcl), guitar (guit), violin 1 (vln 1), violin 2 (vln 2), viola (vla), cello (cel), and piano (pno). The piano part features a triplet of chords in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. The score is marked with measure numbers 90 and 95, and a rehearsal mark 'H' at measure 92. The word 'gliss.' is written above the violin and cello staves, indicating glissando effects. The piano part has a triplet of chords in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

100

105

1

voc W
 away over there
 what
 folly
 need to

voc M
 what is the word
 for to
 seem to glimpse

tpt
 bcl
 guit
 vln 1
 gliss.
 gliss.
 vln 2
 gliss.
 gliss.
 via
 gliss.
 gliss.
 cel
 gliss.
 gliss.

pno
 3
 3
 3

J

110

120

125

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout. At the top, the vocal parts are labeled 'voc W' (Soprano) and 'voc M' (Bass). The vocal lines contain lyrics: 'afaint afar' (110-112), 'what what is the word' (115-118), 'what is the word' (120-122), and 'what is the word' (125-127). The instrumental parts include 'tpt' (Trumpet), 'bcl' (Baritone), 'guit' (Guitar), 'vln 1' (Violin 1), 'vln 2' (Violin 2), 'via' (Viola), 'cel' (Cello), and 'pno' (Piano). The strings (vln 1, vln 2, via, cel) play a melodic line with 'gliss.' (glissando) markings. The piano part features a triplet of chords at measure 115 and a final chord at measure 127. The score is divided into measures by vertical dashed lines.