

You Said

For Speaking Percussionist

By Aidan Gold

Duration: Approx. 6 min

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Instrumentation

4 Tam-tams (sizes approx. 10", 15", 20", 40")
 Thundersheet (very thick)
 3 Ice Axes (lowest pitched in E4, other 2 anywhere between F4 and D#5)
 Snow Picket (pitched E5)
 Glass Bell (pitched in E4)
 Woodblock
 Toy Piano- range F3-F6
 Knife (serrated)
 5 colored desk bells- D, E, F, G, and A
 4 Metal Pipes- Ab5, C6, Db6, A half-flat6 (a little more than an octave above the lowest pipe)
 (pipes notated an octave lower)
 Crotales (low octave- sounds 2 octaves higher than written)
 Music Box (diatonic- range C4-C6 with custom melody paper strip)
 Large metal mixing bowl
 Wooden table

Setup suggestions


The performer should be seated at a large wooden table. The toy piano and woodblock should be on the table, and the desk bells, metal pipes, and music box should be on the toy piano. The mixing bowl should rest upside down on the performer's left leg. The rest of the instruments should be on stands surrounding the performer. All ice axes, pickets, bells, and gongs should be suspended so that they are as resonant as possible.

Notation

The percussionist's speaking and gestural part is notated on the "Voice" staff. The clearly pitched instruments (Crotales, Desk Bells, Toy Piano, Music Box, and Metal Pipes) each get their own staff, and the rest of the instruments are notated on the "Percussion" staff according to the following key:



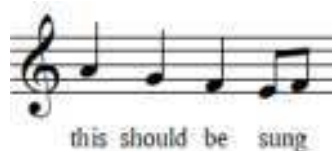
Vocal part


 Indicates a change in head position. This symbol will always have a large underlined number or letter above it. This indicates to look in a certain direction. The letter D indicates to look down, and the numbers 1-5 indicate positions to look. The performer should choose these 5 positions (for example, it could be 5 different members of the audience) and consistently look in those positions whenever the corresponding number is indicated. If there is a staccato articulation

above this symbol, the head movement should be abrupt and sudden. If there is a tenuto mark instead, the movement should be smooth and gradual.



These headless notes indicate spoken voice. The rhythms should not be followed exactly but should instead be stretched and compressed to create natural speaking rhythms. The speech should follow the expressive markings notated in the score, though nothing should sound obviously acted or over-dramatic- all the speaking should feel real and sincere.



standard note heads in the Voice part indicate singing. The singing should always be somewhat subtle, without vibrato, and should be sung in the most comfortable octave for the performer (not necessarily the one written).



This note head means to speak without pitch- either for whispering or for sustaining a 'hissing' consonant sound like 'f' or 's'.



This means to speak inaudibly- mouth the words such that the audience can tell the performer is speaking, but cannot hear any sound from the performer's voice.

Instrument parts



= repeat the figure in the box for the duration of the line. The repetitions should be either irregular or continuous, depending on the specific instructions in the score.



means to scrape an instrument with the serrated side of the knife for a guiro-like effect. If the line is continuous, scrape in a circular motion for continuous sound. If the line is not continuous (e.g. the scrape is in a box as per the above notation), the individual scrapes should be separated by brief silences.



a special effect- see score for details



dampen the instrument- let ring unless this is specifically notated

You Said

Aidan Gold

Freely- approx. ♩ = 45

1.

p spoken, matter-of-factly

2.

rit.

Voice: You said you knew what it felt like. Desk Bells: You told me

Toy Piano: tam-tams, thundersheet *pp* *p* *espress.* Toy Piano: scrape top of toy pno. with knife *pp* *sf*

Percussion: drag superball across face of tam-tam *pp* *cresc/dim freely*

a tempo

D.

f panicked whisper

~5 sec

Voi.: it makes sense that a-void eye con-tact!

D. Bls.: Metal Pipes: scrape edges of pipes with knife

Mtl. Pps.: Perc.: scrape edge of wood table with knife; scrape adze of ice axe with knife; (scrape table); scrape circles on top of upsidown large mixing bowl with knife

Perc.: repeat irregularly

Moving forward ♩ = 92

rit.

♩ = 56

rit.

♩ = 70

Voi.: You said you will reach peo-ple with your Crotales regretful You said,

Crt.: Crotales regretful *mp*

Ty. Pno.: Ty. Pno. on keys *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mp*

Perc.: starting from bottom, strike ice axe with knife grad. moving up the shaft; (strike adze with knife) *pp* *mf*

You Said

Tempo I ♩ = 45

D.

15 *f* *ff*

Voi. it's a prob - lem like in - to - na - tion I need you to force me!

Crt.

D. Bls. *f* D. Bls.

Ty. Pno. *f*

Mtl. Pps. 15 Mtl. Pps. *f*

Perc. 15 *ff* tamtams hard mallets (flip mallets) ice axes and picket w/rattan shaft *ff*

19 *mf* *poco rit.* *pp* *Very slow* ♩ = 40 *Tempo I* ♩ = 45 *ppp* sung

Voi. end I need not over start. "tell this soul..."

Ty. Pno.

Mtl. Pps. 19 *p* *pp*

Perc. 19 (grad. change striking angle to bring out diff. overtones) tamtams soft mallets *p* *ppp*

dim poco a poco grad. slower and sparser *pp*

(random irreg. rhythms) mixing bowl w/rattan shaft

24 *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*

Voi. You said am I bet - ter off now than am I was? You said, trust me! it's im -

Ty. Pno. *mp* *mf*

Perc. 24 ice axes *mf* scrape circles on top of upsdown large mixing bowl with knife *mf*

rit. a tempo **1.** Precise, like a clock ♩ = 60

Voi. 27 *pp* *p* *f*
 por-tant to not ig-nore it. You say, take time for your - sel - f

Ty. Pno. 27 *pp* *p*
 scrape top of toy pno. with knife

Mtl. Pps. 27 *pp*

Perc. 27 *p*
 wdblck.

Moving forward ♩ = 92 accel. (♩ = 144)

Voi. 34 *mf* ironically *f* *ff* shout *mf* spoken normally
 You said you're so much bet-ter than me

Ty. Pno. 34 *f* *ff*

Previous tempo ♩ = 92 grad. look ----- **5.** *p* hushed *mf*

Voi. 38 *p* *mf*
 to see you go through this not a-bout a-bout not de-

Ty. Pno. 38 *p*

Perc. 38 *p*
 Glass bell low ice axe picket Glass bell

Tempo I ♩ = 45 accel. *p* *mf* *f* *ff*
 breathy, somewhat scared, higher pitched than normal (♩ = 80)

Voi. 42 *p* *mf* *f* *ff*
 ser-ving? you al-ways say, it will get bet-ter if you keep wor-king towards it!

Ty. Pno. 42 *p* *mf* *ff*
 scrape top of toy pno. with knife repeat irregularly
 scrape edge of wood table with knife

Perc. 42 *pp* *cresc. poco a poco* *mf* *ff*
 scrape shaft of ice axe with knife

You Said

Forceful ♩ = 52 rit. a tempo Very slow ♩ = 40

4. look at knife 4. shout 4. pp spoken normally 1. silently shout D. sung ppp

grad. lift knife, blade pointed up slam knife handle down on toy piano as hard as possible without damaging the instrument.

pp ppp ff

tamtams l.v.

Tempo I ♩ = 45 Moving forward ♩ = 92

3. f

sor - row la - den..." You said,

f rubato

tam-tams, thundersheet ppp

With energy ♩ = ♩ (♩ = 123) rit. mf

2. dampen w/hand

stop ly - ing to your - self! You pro - mised

f mp

dim poco a poco

molto rit. **Tempo I** ♩ = 45 $\text{♩} = \text{♩} = 67.5$ **accel.**

Voi. *p* *pp* **D.** sung *breathily, sighingly* **2.** *spoken, as before*
mp

60 it is worth it to too shy go-ing

Crt.

Ty. Pno. *pp espress.* *cresc. poco a poco*

mf ♩ = 80 **Lullaby** ♩ = 60 **5.** *haltingly, with emotion at times half-sung*

Voi. *p*
 keep! you I am care for

Crt.

Ty. Pno. *p* *molto espress.*
f

Perc. *f*
 scrape surface of tamtam with tip of snare stick

♩ = 80 **1.** *mf* *spoken, panicked* **3.** **rit.**

Voi. *mf*
 here be-cause you I said why do you say it's gon-na be hard? years? months?

Crt.

Ty. Pno. *f*

You Said

♩ = 60

5.

panicked

77

Voi. You said it hurts me too?! You can't force me to get help?!

(play clusters between the outer notes)

Ty. Pno. *fff*

Perc. 77 low tam-tam (soft mallet)

at each cluster chord, randomly look in one of the 5 chosen directions. Switch extremely abruptly. ~8 sec.

random, irreg. cluster chords. grad. more frequent

p

D. Tempo I ♩ = 45

eyes closed

ppp

poco accel.

inaudibly mouth the words

poco rit.

a tempo

82

Voi. "tell this soul with sor-row la - den if with - in the dis - tant Ai - denn it shall clasp a sain - ted mai - den whom the an - gels..."

82 Music Box *p*

82

Perc. *fff*

suddenly look up at the audience with a big (though not exaggerated) quasi-fake smile. This should feel ambiguous whether it is still part of the piece or whether it is the performer stopping performing to acknowledge the audience. Only hold this for about 1 second.

accel. *inhale (no pitch)*

rit. *exhale (no pitch)*

molto rit.

90

Voi.

90

MB