

SILENT WAVES

by Hazel Smith and Roger Dean (1992)

for prerecorded text samples, speaker, and two instrumentalists playing synthesizer/sampler, and soprano saxophone or trumpet

Note on preparation of prerecorded sounds:

- 1) Besides the text samples, these may include the sequencer material, and the speaker part; though these may both be performed live.
- 2) If pre-recorded, the hi-hat sounds should move progressively from extreme R to extreme L in the mix; and the synthesizer from centred at 1/3L to centred 1/3R. In any case, slight modulation changes in the hi-hat sound should occur progressively throughout the piece.
- 3) The text samples may be recorded by the speaker who also performs live, or by another voice; the latter is preferred.

The issued recording of the piece (on Poet Without Language, Rufus Records/Soma Records, 1994) is a studio recording of a performance.

A

synth

'Synthesiser' sounds are mainly a vibraphone-like voice (or electric piano DX7), together with text samples. Text samples are 1) pulses feed; 2) whales wing; 3) wings pulse; 4) N..O..X..; 5) Nox veils; 6) unstate; 7) unsteady

sax

speaker

Silent waves

Pulse

A

sequencer

p =120

7"

5"

4"

7"

4"

hi-hat sample (silent way)

synth

sax

6

speaker

Peaceful.....SHHH....

B

6

sequencer

mp =120

mp

sop sax is transposed.

synth

8

sax

8

speaker

Silent waves/

Silent graves are singing

sequencer

synth

10

sop sax

10

speaker

The sea surrenders in a silent way/ seeds hidden meters buried themes/

sequencer

synth 13

sax 13

speaker

sequencer

1/4 tone range microtones

synth 16

sax 16

speaker

sequencer 16

repeat bar 7 times

7x

facet

facet

rhythm reigns poetic license / a war of silence rules the waves/ the tears

synth

sax 23

speaker of fish in drying oceans/ shores shrouded in semantic veils/ pulses feed/ unpeel the unrepresentable/

sequencer 23 5x

Detailed description of the first system: This system covers measures 23 to 27. The synth part (top staff) has a melodic line with two phrases, each slurred. The sax part (second staff) also has a melodic line with two phrases, each slurred. The speaker part (third staff) contains the lyrics: "of fish in drying oceans/ shores shrouded in semantic veils/ pulses feed/ unpeel the unrepresentable/". The sequencer part (bottom staff) consists of two measures of eighth-note patterns, followed by a repeat sign and a vertical line with "5x" indicating five repetitions.

synth

sax 28

speaker the lead from cars/ the forms we farm/ the missing beats in processed feelings/

sequencer 28 *mf* 3x

Detailed description of the second system: This system covers measures 28 to 31. The synth part (top staff) has a melodic line with a slur and a "1" above it, with the text "(text samples)" below it. The sax part (second staff) has a melodic line with a slur and a "1" above it. The speaker part (third staff) contains the lyrics: "the lead from cars/ the forms we farm/ the missing beats in processed feelings/". The sequencer part (bottom staff) consists of four measures of eighth-note patterns, with a dynamic marking of "mf" and a vertical line with "3x" indicating three repetitions.

synth 31

mf *cresc* *f*

sax 31

mf *cresc* *f*

speaker

the steadiness which understates/ in words unready swaying stems/ our
heads of states are killing whales/

sequencer

2nd time bass line 3x

synth 37

f *dim* *mp*

sax 37

f *dim* *mp*

speaker

the stars sucked in by status symbols/

ozone tones/ green time
gaze/ cosmic silos/

sequencer

(1x) (1x) (1x) (2x)

synths
42

sax
42

46

mp *cresc* *ff*

mp *cresc* *ff* gliss

speaker nature has her silent way/

open zones/ is time green/
cosmic silence/ nature
holds her psychic sway/

46

sequencer

(1x) (3x) (1x) (4x)

synth

mf freer dynamics, less than *ff*

mf freer dynamics, less than *ff*

sax

51

54

f

speaker

mountains of dismembered sails/ darkest
days closed eyes awaken/

former day dreams deepen dial up/

54

sequencer

(2x) (1x) (2x) (2x)

F

F

synth 58 *f* dim *mf* dim

sax 58 *mf* dim

speaker
psychic searchlights
pythons pylons/
toxic waves dioxide cyclones/token truths on silent signposts/
maps
revealing mainland islands/

sequencer 63 (2x) (3x) (2x) (4x)

synth 69 *mp* **G**

sax 69 *mp* ad lib ad lib 75

speaker
the silent weave of
silent waves/

sequencer 69 **G** 75 (2x) (4x) (3x) (1x)

79
synths

79
sax

speaker
green blue blood of algae blooms/ pulsing on imagined staves
rise/{IMPROVISE ON "RISE"}/

84

sequencer

90
synth

90
sax

speaker
ozone oceans puckered plains/ openings in cosmic veins/ window
on a world which pales pricks/ drifting syntax shifting aims/

97

sequencer

105
synths

mf cresc

H

105
sop sax

mf etc cresc etc

H

105
speaker

114

soundtracks of semantic rain/ shadows of
forgotten failings/

H

sequencer

(3x) (6x) (4x) (1x)

synth

mf cresc

119
sax

cresc *f*

125

119
speaker

125

music memory mystic mail/ turns
neglected soil sustains/

119
sequencer

(4x) (2x) (4x) (3x)

132 synth sub *ff* *pp* rubato, continue ad lib

no cresc

132 sax *ff* (multiphonic) slow diminuendo to *pp* 140 etc continue process

no cresc

speaker

the old world order new found
nests/ shifting nations migrant worlds

140

the heartbeat of an
unborn child/ snakes
through silence
whales with wings/

sequencer (4x) (4x) (4x) (5x)

149 synth no cresc 2 2 poco cresc i.e. continue previous process

continue

sax no cresc poco cresc 159 continue process

continue

tacet

149 speaker

time tracking silent pulses trails/ in silent
faces phrases pale/

159

149 sequencer (4x) (6x) (4x) (7x)

170
synth
continue process: do not get to notes shorter than quavers
poco cresc; hold back
etc

170
sax
continue: do not get to notes shorter than quavers
poco cresc; hold back

185
speaker
the woven whispers of the waves/ undeard while human ears prevail/
seize sense through semiotic stains/

185
sequencer
(4x) (11x) (4x) (15x)

204
synth
continue; shortening note values, but not to less than quavers
pulsing..... shifting (text samples)
continue developing quaver lines, with various groupings, in preparation for pulse shifts

204
sax
continue; shortening note values, but not to less than quavers
continue; break down lines eventually to quavers, but not shorter notes, in preparation for pulse shifts.

204
sequencer
(4x) (21x)

synth
 improvised pulse shifts, using harmonic structure of sequencer *f* dynamics can even slightly exceed voice

229 instruments: denser activity in this section

sax
 improvised pulse shifts, using harmonic structure of sequencer *f* dynamics can even slightly exceed voice

I
 shorelines drift / waves impulse/ fish falter/ crossed lines kiss/ light sharpens/ dreams ripple/ sand-dunes shift/ days bargain/ rocks splinter/ phrases phase/ time totters/ hopes trigger/

speaker
 229 =90 accel etc

I
 234 DX7-like Electric piano sound, with EG3=99; i. e. no dim during note sustain

sequencer
 =120 still (5x) (5x)

synth

239

sax
 244

contiguity grips/ codes kickback/ stones stagger/ incantatory gifts
 sempre accelerando

speaker
 239 etc

244
 graves implode/ ghosts filter/ insecurity trips/ time sculptures/
 sounds circle/ continuity shifts/ cells shatter/ words windfall/
 [pause] /commonality splits/ signs flicker/ minds mutate/
 instability sticks/ seas scatter/ thoughts backfire/ insecurity
 pricks/ songs sidetrack/ trails trackdown/ credibility dips/ oils
 ooze out/ pulse piles rise/

sequencer
 etc (5x) (5x)

249
synths

4 4
4

text samples to taste, but
primarily using 4.

improvised pulse shifts, using
harmonic structure of sequencer

249

instruments: continue denser
activity in this section

sax

improvised pulse shifts, using
harmonic structure of sequencer

speaker

Improvise until I on some of
the following words, and
others:
N...O.....X.....

Nox xon NOX circles of sex nuclear Oedipus Rex hydrogen ions negative
positive flex No X no yes hi tech X nautical options modern day odysseys
narratives omit NOX ABC nitrogen oxygen flesh narratives emit NOX ABC
noxious obnoxious

sequencer

synth

continue

sax

continue

molto

259

speaker

continue

molto

259

sequencer

synths 269 *tacet*

sax 269 *tacet*

speaker

cosmic strength silence/ weighs ghostly grave silence snares/ empty seas heighten/ second sight cyclops/

PRERECORDED SPEAKER (free rhythms): is time green? is time gregarious? does death engender means? can timelessness intone? will thoughts dissolve in time? is green a colour concept means? are words impulsive timed a hand grenade? are pulses speed?

sequencer (5x) (7x)

synths etc

sax *p* elaborate, with increasing semiquavers and shorter notes and pauses between phrases

speaker *p* sinewaves in cycles/ bleeding blooms whiten/ time tricks the pulse track/ tied up words weeping/

PRERECORDED SPEAKER: is time a theme? does time tick tock? will silent waves remain unseen? has growth become a game disease? is greed addressed by greens? can seeds be known unsowed? does time transform as dream? can silent ghosts fulfil our hopes?

sequencer (5x) (5x)

55

synths
291

poco cresc

mf

continue

poco cresc

mf

sax
291

continue

(live: rhythms as before) living veils syntax/ silence enslaves
soundwaves/ silent semantic snails/

speaker

sequencer

(5x)

(3x)

synth
300

continue

occasional samples can be used

getting slower and sparser but
stay *mf*

sax
300

continue

getting slower and sparser but
stay *mf*

speaker

306

winding ways paths weigh down/

306

PRERECORDED SPEAKER: is time enslaved? is time in circles cyclic? are
scientists one eyed? does green time graze? is green a process, state? are
waves a warp or web or weave? must nature be assailed?

sequencer

(5x)

(1x)

(5x)

31 synth (Text samples) impulses defeat...deflower.. dim etc

311 sax mf dim etc 319 pp (highest note poss at pp)

speaker will waves be saved, will science last the day?/ silent waves are folding in my fist/ dying pulses peak/ 319

319 sequencer (5x) (3x) (3x) bass (epno) line either every bar, or irregularly bass continues

322 synth mp ppp al niente unless you co continue if you wish but very sparsely

322 sax mp dim al niente unless you co continue if you wish but very sparsely

322 speaker Tacet after last sequencer sounds. waves silence life

325 326 328 331 sequencer (3x) 7" 11" 17" 25" (or more)