

An eight-letter word, for narrator and piano

Music and edition: Diego Soifer  
Text: Damion Rallis

Duration: 9 minutes

-2008-

This work is for tape (two channels: piano and narrator), and requires a setup for piano and narrator, that creates an illusion of a live performance.

The pianist is facing the audience, so that we can not see his hands. He has a score with the piano part. Microphones are placed to pretend the piano is amplified. A speaker is placed underneath the piano to hide his feet (this speaker plays the piano channel). The pianist never plays. The narrator is further back, standing. He has a microphone and a stand with the text. Due to lighting, we can not see his mouth. A speaker is placed a few meters to the right of the piano (which plays the narrator's channel).

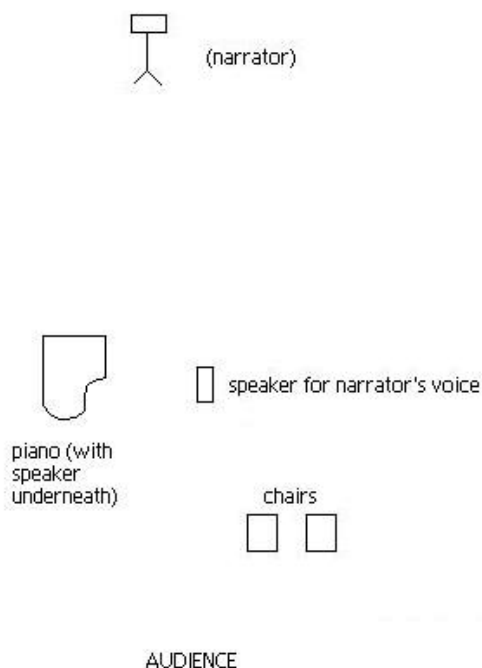
None of the microphones are in fact working.

The hall dims the lights to total darkness when the first piano chords sound. The only lights come from two stand-lights: one in the piano's stand, one in the narrator's stand. There are two chairs at the edge of the stage. Both performers will go and sit on those chairs when indicated on the score.

When the performers walk towards the chairs, both their empty places (the narrator's microphone and the piano) are lit up.

The piece is announced on the program as follows: An eight-letter word, for narrator and piano.

Graphic of the setup:



An eight-letter word

Text

Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Sit down.  
Get up!  
Get-up.  
Get.  
Up.  
Get.

Let it go on.  
Don't breathe.  
Don't say a word.  
Let it go on.  
Don't breathe.  
Sit down.  
Get up  
Get-up  
Up-up  
Sit down.  
Don't notice.  
Put your finger on the button.  
Look straight ahead.

Challenge is an eight-letter word.  
Challenge.  
Eight-letter word.  
I said that.  
You said that.  
We said that.  
Challenge.

You said that is one sentence.  
I said that is one sentence.  
Together it was two sentences.  
Together.  
Challenge.  
Together.  
Challenge.  
Together.  
Challenge.

Put you Finger on the button.  
Shut it off.  
Open your eyes.  
Challenge your comfort.

Don't be distracted.  
Stop sleeping.

They kill.  
They will.  
Still.  
They kill.  
How do we stop it?  
How do You stop it?  
How... will you stop it?  
Not by sitting there.  
We're too engrossed  
I dare you to shut it off.  
Shut it off.  
What would you talk about  
if you shut it off?  
I dare you.  
I Dare you to shut it off.  
To Stop it.  
I dare you.  
They need you to turn it on.  
They beg you to watch more.  
Put your finger on the button.  
Shut it off.

Listen closely.  
They're lying.  
Listen.  
They lie to you.  
Shut it off.  
Tell them you want to know.

Pass it on.  
Break the silence.

Stop saying stop.  
Tell somebody.  
Listen closely.  
Put your finger on the button.  
Shut it off.  
Stand up.  
This is our story now.

This is our story  
Tell your story.  
Talk about it.  
Tell your secret.

*[note to the performer: after this you hear this line on the tape, walk normally and sit down on the chair at the edge of the stage]*

Voices.  
Use your voice.  
Louder.  
Get up.  
Challenge your comfort.  
Tell the truth.  
Tell it again.

You know what to do  
now.  
Our story.  
Now.

Why do they lie?  
find out  
Why they lie  
find out  
Why they lie  
to you  
Find out  
why they lie

Knowledge provides...  
No excuse.  
Get up.

Challenge  
comfort  
together.

Voices rise  
Louder

Get up

## An eight-letter word

### Piano

Sit at the piano, let the tape make people create the illusion that you are performing, but never play any note. Your hands should not be seen by the audience.

At the indicated time, stand up, walk naturally, and sit down on the chair in front of the stage.

$\text{♩} = 42$



4



7



10



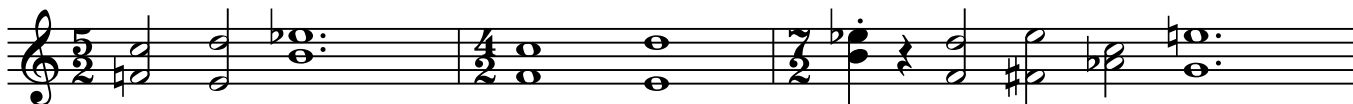
13



15



17



20



22

Musical notation for measure 22, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The measure contains a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a half note A4, and a whole note B4.

25

Musical notation for measure 25, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The measure contains a half note G4, a half note A4, a whole note B4, and a whole note C5.

28

Musical notation for measure 28, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The measure contains a half note G4, a half note A4, a whole note B4, and a whole note C5.

32

Musical notation for measure 32, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The measure contains a half note G4, a half note A4, a whole note B4, and a whole note C5.

35

Musical notation for measure 35, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The measure contains a half note G4, a half note A4, a whole note B4, and a whole note C5.

38

Musical notation for measure 38, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The measure contains a half note G4, a half note A4, a whole note B4, and a whole note C5.

40

Musical score for measures 40-42. The score is written for two staves: Treble and Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 2/4. Measure 40 features a melodic line in the treble staff and a bass line in the bass staff. Measure 41 shows a change in the bass line. Measure 42 concludes the system with a final chord.

43

Musical score for measures 43-45. The score is written for two staves: Treble and Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 2/4. Measure 43 starts with a melodic line in the treble staff and a bass line in the bass staff. Measure 44 shows a change in the bass line. Measure 45 concludes the system with a final chord.

46

*rit.*

Musical score for measures 46-50. The score is written for two staves: Treble and Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 3/4. Measure 46 starts with a melodic line in the treble staff and a bass line in the bass staff. Measure 47 shows a change in the bass line. Measure 48 shows a change in the bass line. Measure 49 shows a change in the bass line. Measure 50 concludes the system with a final chord.

51

♩ = 26

♩ = 52

♩ = 42

Musical score for measures 51-55. The score is written for two staves: Treble and Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 3/4. Measure 51 starts with a melodic line in the treble staff and a bass line in the bass staff. Measure 52 shows a change in the bass line. Measure 53 shows a change in the bass line. Measure 54 shows a change in the bass line. Measure 55 concludes the system with a final chord.

56

Musical score for measures 56-60. The score is written for two staves: Treble and Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 3/4. Measure 56 starts with a melodic line in the treble staff and a bass line in the bass staff. Measure 57 shows a change in the bass line. Measure 58 shows a change in the bass line. Measure 59 shows a change in the bass line. Measure 60 concludes the system with a final chord.



stand up, walk naturally together with the narrator  
and sit down on the chair in front of the stage.

59

Musical score for measures 59-61. The score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef. Measure 59 features a complex chordal texture with a melodic line in the treble. Measure 60 shows a continuation of the texture with some notes tied across the bar line. Measure 61 concludes the system with a final chord and a fermata over the bass line.

62

Musical score for measures 62-63. Measure 62 features a complex chordal texture with a melodic line in the treble. Measure 63 shows a continuation of the texture with some notes tied across the bar line. The dynamic marking *mf* is present below the bass staff. A fermata is placed over the final chord in the bass staff.

64

Musical score for measures 64-65. Measure 64 features a complex chordal texture with a melodic line in the treble. Measure 65 shows a continuation of the texture with some notes tied across the bar line.

66

Musical score for measures 66-67. Measure 66 features a complex chordal texture with a melodic line in the treble. Measure 67 shows a continuation of the texture with some notes tied across the bar line. The dynamic marking *mf* is present below the bass staff. A fermata is placed over the final chord in the bass staff.

68

Musical score for measures 68-69. Measure 68 features a complex chordal texture with a melodic line in the treble. Measure 69 shows a continuation of the texture with some notes tied across the bar line. The dynamic marking *mf* is present below the bass staff. A fermata is placed over the final chord in the bass staff.