

YOUNGMAN /
OVERHOLT

piano & electronics

MUSIC BY JON BELLONA

YOUNGMAN / OVERHOLT

Notes

Youngman / Overholt was written in honor of my grandmother, Betty Jane Youngman Overholt, who passed away in early 2013. BJ performed the accordion and piano from a young age and had perfect pitch. Although she became completely deaf the last 20 years of her life, she taught herself to read lips, and she could still play classic tunes on the piano perfectly from muscle memory. Sadly, because of her hearing, my grandmother never could listen to the music I wrote for her, even while alive. The electronics for *Youngman / Overholt* are based on a 2011 voice recording of BJ talking about her husband (my grandfather), David Overholt, while he was in the ICU several weeks before his death at age 90. They had been married for 68 years.

Time markings in the score indicate tape time to help with performance. You may choose to use a timer. Not all events occur in sync with electronics; however, irregular rest patterns (e.g. 16th rests) will help infer when the piano should match hits with the electronics. [The included midi file is for performance research in understanding this synchronization].

Dictation of BJ's voice

“You know, the older you get I notice, you don't have as many either. Uh, highs or lows. You don't feel all that bad, but you don't feel all that good...it...it... e..ev..everything it just, you know it used to be, "Oh my god---aahh", and then, but now it's just all kind of comes... I find that with me too.”

Ideas for performance

The piece begins and ends on a Eb, providing a closed loop to the life cycle. The work deals with registers and dynamics to get at the interplay between highs and lows. The piano fades in and out of being BJ as a person. The closing of the lid at the end represents the finality, the closing of the coffin, the end of one's journey in this life. At this point in the end, you should assume the role of the dead; your breath is her breath, your end is her end. The final bar rest is meant to stay the body, your head should end near the lid.

Jon Bellona

January 10, 2013

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Somber ♩ = 60

0:00 0:24 0:32

6 6

Keep the pedal down throughout.

mp *mp*

mf

8^{va}

8^{vb}

11 0:40 0:48 0:56 1:04

mp

8^{va}

8^{vb}

mf

18 1:08 1:16 1:24 1:32

8^{va}

8^{vb}

mp

26 1:40 1:48

8^{vb}

1:52 2:00

29 3 5 3 *p* *pp* 3

2:04 2:12 2:20

32 *p* *mp* *mp* *mp* 8va

2:24 2:32

37 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp* 3 3 8va

2:40 2:48 2:56

41 *p* *mp* *f*

3:00 3:08 3:16

46 *mp* *mf* *p*

3:24 3:32

52 *mf* *p* *mf*

3:40 3:48 3:56

56 *f* *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *8va*

4:00 4:08 4:16

61 *8vb* *8vb* *mp* *8va* *ff*

Lift up butt to dig into this chord

4:20 4:28

66 *pp* *mp* *8va*

4:36 4:44 4:52

70

mp *mf* *p*

8^{va} 8^{vb}

4:56 5:04 5:12

75

mp

8^{va} 8^{vb}

5:16 5:24

80

mp

5:32 5:40

84

p

Close the lid

Rest to still the body.