

SARAH HUGHES

COLLAPSED POINTS FOR LIVING IN

For Basil Beattie and Dominic Lash

COLLAPSED POINTS FOR LIVING IN

A composition in three Acts
From Basil Beattie's Janus Series

Music We'd Like To Hear 2015

For solo double bass

THE CHARACTERS

ARCO
PIZZ

Something about death
Occasional fidgeting
The melting point of infinitude
Up against an interminable passage
Combinations of streets make cities
And bricks make houses
Notes are good stones for throwing
This is a beautiful room
Pay attention to noiselessness through displacement
That silence pushes you to the corner of your eyes
I could build a room out of it
On the up and the down and its method of getting there
You'll need two hats to keep both heads dry
A geodesic free fall for forward and back
That pot of gold is of a hopeful pedigree
Woebegone or a contented family man
Simple origins for foraging
Given over to exhalation
X distance travelled on a parallactic dirt road
A summing up
Remember that you (have to) die

NOTES

ACT I	Six minutes
Transition I	
ACT II	Six minutes
Transition II	
ACT III	Six minutes
ENTER STAGE RIGHT	Down bow
ENTER STAGE LEFT	Up bow
ENTER DOWN STAGE RIGHT	Down bow, <i>sul pont</i>
ENTER DOWN STAGE LEFT	Up bow, <i>sul pont</i>
EXIT STAGE RIGHT	End on down bow
EXIT STAGE LEFT	End on up bow
EXIT DOWN STAGE RIGHT	End on down bow, <i>sul pont</i>
EXIT DOWN STAGE LEFT	End on up bow, <i>sul pont</i>
'A clock ticks'	Metronome <i>andante</i>

ACT I. SCENE I.

ENTER STAGE RIGHT.

A single voice speaks one word.

ARCO: (firm) ↓ = D₃

Repeat every 8 seconds. Always entering stage right.

EXIT STAGE RIGHT.

ACT I. SCENE II.

ENTER STAGE RIGHT.

Pace up and down.

ARCO: ↓ = G#₃

EXIT STAGE LEFT.

ENTER DOWN STAGE LEFT.

Muttering.

ARCO: D, E, F, G, G# (4)

EXIT DOWN STAGE RIGHT.

ACT I. SCENE III.

ENTER STAGE RIGHT.

A single voice speaks one word.

ARCO: ↓ = A₅

CENTRE STAGE.

Another voice forms a sentence.

PIZZ: (in any combination)

D, E, F, G, G#

Occasionally interrupted from stage right.

One-word insults.

ARCO: ↓ = D₄

ALL EXIT STAGE LEFT.

ACT II. SCENE I.

ENTER DOWN STAGE RIGHT.

As slow as possible whilst
remaining present.

ARCO: ♭ = A₄

EXIT STAGE RIGHT.

ENTER DOWN STAGE RIGHT.

As slow as possible whilst
remaining present. With force.
Distorting speech if necessary.

ARCO: ♭ = A₄

EXIT STAGE RIGHT.

ACT II. SCENE II.

ENTER STAGE RIGHT.

Shouting intensely. Pacing up
and down.

ARCO: (Encountered as a
physical object) ♭ = G#₃

EXIT STAGE LEFT.

[Pause. Opening up void in the
situation]

ACT III. SCENE I.

A clock ticks.

CENTRE STAGE.

Two voices speak single words.

Constellation of eclipsing

binaries.

ARCO: (in any combination)

G#, A, B, C, D, E, F#,

PIZZ: (in any combination)

D, E, F, G, G#

One voice falls silent as the other
establishes a new order.

A member of the audience starts
singing.

PIZZ: (in any combination)

A B C D E F G

The clock stopped ticking and
nobody knew when.

EXIT STAGE LEFT.

[IT ALL FALLS APART IN THE
END]

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