

Score for Readers/Water Players

Revision 3/17/02

John will bring down the lights.

Prana (the electronic sound) will fade in and out). Before it is gone, begin sparse water drops. At first, try to avoid coinciding your drops with the other readers. After a while, gradually increase frequency of drops, and try to coincide with others. About a minute passes:

I speak to you (*Hoa leads, others follow*)

Water drops come sparsely again. Shakuhachi plays for a couple of minutes, eventually replaced by Tako's voice. Tako drops in register and does a harmonic drone. At this cue:

I spoke to you when you were born (*Hoa & Tom in unison*)

Tako sings some more. Anne and John sing. John starts to whistle.

Once John starts to whistle, Tom plays his recorder (not playing too high or loud), and Anne will eventually whistle too. When Tom is done playing, Tom and Hoa speak the past tense text. They take turns first, with plenty of breathing room:

I spoke to you at your first sight. (Tom leads)
I spoke to you at your first word. (Hoa)
I spoke to you at your first thought. (Tom)
I spoke to you at your first love. (Hoa)
I spoke to you at your first song. (Tom again)

Led by Hoa, go through the text again. Each reader says each line, but does not coordinate with the others. Four are reading together now, so slow your pace to keep things fairly sparse:

I spoke to you at your first sight. (Katie, Tom, Eli, Hoa – Hoa)
I spoke to you at your first word.
I spoke to you at your first thought.
I spoke to you at your first love.
I spoke to you at your first song.

If you close your eyes when you are done, the singers will know to start singing...

The singers sing “Be Still Know I am God” over and over. Just before they are done singing the 2nd time, Tom and Hoa start speaking the present tense text. Choose lines at random, but focus on lines that especially appeal to you personally. After about 45 seconds, Katie and Eli join in and read as well. Start out with a lot of time between each line, but gradually increase frequency.

**I speak to you through the grass of the meadows.
I speak to you through the trees of the forests.
I speak to you through the valleys and the hills.
I speak to you through the Holy Mountains.
I speak to you through the rain and snow.
I speak to you through the waves of the sea.
I speak to you through the dew of the morning.
I speak to you through the peace of the evening.
I speak to you through the splendor of the sun.
I speak to you through the brilliant stars.
I speak to you through the storm and the clouds.
I speak to you through the thunder and lightening.
I speak to you through the mysterious rainbow**

The singers start sing again, but wordlessly. The texture continues to gets thicker. Hoa ripples the water by hand. Readers may begin to incorporate the text from the past or even just the words “Be Still” to vary the texture.

Things get denser, but never threatening. Future text may be added now as well. The shakuhachi starts to play, and will flutter tongue a high note (Eb) – indicating that Lesley is going to start singing soon. Once Lesley starts to sing, everyone is silent.

Lesley sings “Be Still” over and over. Anne & John eventually join in. Tako starts saying “shhhhh”, and after a while all singing filters out to nothing. Readers quietly join in on the “shhhhh”, especially to cover Tako’s breaths:

shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh

The “shhhhhh” does not go on for long. When Tako fades out, fade out with him.

Tom starts to play recorder. Phils joins after a while. Before Anne and John are completely faded out, the water starts again. Speak the future text, but don't start until Tom is finished playing, since he must read also! Take turns, with plenty of time between lines:

I will speak to you when you are alone (Hoa leads)

I will speak to you through the Wisdom of the Ancients. (Tom)

I will speak to you at the end of time. (Katie)

I will speak to you when you have seen my Angels. (Eli)

I will speak to you throughout Eternity. (All together, but not in unison)

I speak to you. (Tom)

Be still

Know I am God.

I speak to you. (Hoa)

Be still

Know I am God.

Everyone starts saying a lot pitched "shhhhh", passing it around the chapel. Just a "hhhhhh" sounds is fine to start to keep it soft and low. Try to "spot" each other, sounding while others are breathing. Attempt to create the illusion of a single sound traveling around the space:

hhhhhhhhhh or shhhhhhhhh

To change the pitch of your shhhhhh, experiment with moving your tongue closer or further from your teeth, or even opening the aperture at your teeth somewhat.

Gradually get louder and higher pitched in your "shhhhh". Make the sound have life – think of waves, or wind, and how it changes constantly. Anne & John will start doing a "heartbeat" rhythm on the "shhhhh" sound, but then eventually go back to just "shhhhh". At this point, gradually get softer and lower pitched. Finally fade to almost nothing.

Begin shushing the "banshee" figure. The "banshees" should be sparse. The banshees gradually become sparser and almost inaudible.

Sit in silence for a bit, and the piece is over.