

Alex Stephenson

SHADOW FIGURES

(2021/2024)

three pieces for piano and synthesizer
(one player)

Composed for Shaoai Ashley Zhang

First performance of the original version (under the title *Three Reflections*)
by Shaoai Ashley Zhang
UC San Diego, La Jolla, California
February 2, 2022

First performance of the current version by Shaoai Ashley Zhang
Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois
January 22, 2025

DURATION: 12 minutes

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PERFORMANCE NOTES

Synthesizer

The synthesizer is controlled by a touch-sensitive, 88-key MIDI keyboard with pedal. No sound from the keyboard's onboard system should be heard. Instead, the keyboard should be connected as a controller to a computer running a Max 8 patch, which is available from the composer. Pianoteq, a physical modeling piano synthesis program, should also be installed on the computer for use within the Max patch. **Both the lowest (A0) and highest (C8) keys of the keyboard are silent. To advance the patch cues at the moments indicated in the score, the performer may press either one of these keys.** Audio from the patch should be diffused through a single (mono) loudspeaker placed under the piano.

TO CONTACT THE COMPOSER

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2025.01.30.1

for Shaoai Ashley Zhang

Shadow Figures

three pieces for piano and synthesizer (one player)

No. 1 – Meditation (after Charles Ives)

Always calm and flexible (♩=c.60)

Alex Stephenson (2021/2024)

1

Cues

Keyboard

Piano

2

3

5

3

FOR PUSAL

1

2

3

5

3

14

Cues

Kbd.

Pno.

7 *mf* 3 *pp*

8 *pp* 5 *p*

16

Cues

Kbd.

Pno.

5 *p*

5 *pp* 3 *p*

18

9

Cues

Kbd.

Pno.

5 *mf* 3 *p* 3 *pp* 5 *p* 3 *mp* 3 *p* 5

5 *p* 3 *mp* 3 *p* 5

5 *pp* 5 *pp*

2025.01.30.1

4
(20)

Cues

10 11

Kbd.

pp *mf* *pp*

Pno.

(22)

Cues

12

Kbd.

mf *pp* *p* *pp*

Pno.

A bit slower (♩=c.54)

(25)

Cues

13

Kbd.

ppp *mf* *pp*

Pno.

ppp *innocente, cantabile, quasi da lontano*

(Ives, "Religion")

28

Cues

Kbd.

Pno.

p

pp

pp

ppp sim.

p

30

Cues

Kbd.

Pno.

p

ppp

pp

ppp sim.

p

33

Cues

Kbd.

Pno.

ppp

p

p

p

6
36

Cues

Kbd.

Pno.

rit. -----

14

(F)

l.v. al niente

dim. to the end

l.v. al niente

3

For PERUSAL ONLY

No. 2 – Machine

Very fast, like a wild and glitchy machine (♩.=84; ♪.=252)

Tempo giusto sempre!

1

11x *) 20x 16x 16x 7x

Cues

Computer-generated delays (actual pitch)

Keyboard (sounds one quartertone lower)

Piano

ff sempre!
senza *leg.*

ff sempre!
senza *leg.*

*) i.e. play 11 times total, including the first time (sempre sim.)

7

12x 6x 2x 8x

Cues

Delays

Kbd.

Pno.

12

7x 6x 4x

Cues

Delays

Kbd.

Pno.

8

(17)

4x

4x

6x

Cues

Delays

Kbd.

Pno.

(21)

8x

13x

8x

Cues

Delays

Kbd.

Pno.

(26)

6x

6x

4x

3x

Cues

Delays

Kbd.

Pno.

(31)

3x

4x

6x

3x

Cues

Delays

Kbd.

Pno.

35

6x 2 5x 3x

Cues

Delays

Kbd.

Pno.

Reo.

40

3 longer 4x

Cues

Delays

Kbd.

Pno.

con tutta la forza!

longer

longer

longer

ff sempre!

con tutta la forza!

omit D if necess.

longer

ff sempre!

44

4x 3x 3x 2x 2x

Cues

Delays

Kbd.

Pno.

10

(49)

Cues

Delays

Kbd.

Pno.

4x

4x

ff to the end!

ff to the end!

ff to the end!

(54)

Cues

Delays

Kbd.

Pno.

4x

5x

8

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in three staves: Cues, Keyboard, and Piano. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The Cues staff shows a single note on the first beat of the first measure. The Keyboard staff features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in the third measure, marked with 'poco sf'. The Piano staff consists of a simple harmonic accompaniment with a bass line of half notes and a treble line of chords, marked with 'p'.

4

Kbd.

Pno.

poco sf *p* *pp*

sonoro *(loco)*

Ped.

7

Kbd.

Pno.

f *mp* *p* *poco sf* *pp*

(10)

Kbd.

Pno.

f *mp* *p* *poco sf* *pp* *p* *pp*

Lea. *(poco libero)*

3 5 3 3 5

(13)

Kbd.

Pno.

poco sf *pp* *(sim.) p* *poco sf*

Lea.

3 3

(16)

Kbd.

Pno.

pp *p* *pp* *p*

Lea. *rit.*

3

19 a tempo (♩=c.60)

Kbd.

Pno.

poco sf

poco sf

ppp

p

slow

22

Cues

Kbd.

Pno.

pp

p

poco sf

poco sf

p

mp

quasi scherzando

(Berg, Wozzeck, Act I, Scene 2)

24

Cues

Kbd.

Pno.

p

pp

mp

mp

p

p

mp

poco sf

Cues

Kbd.

Pno.

4

5

bring out the highest pitch of each chord

mp *p* *poco sf* *p*

Kbd.

Pno.

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Kbd.

Pno.

p *poco sf* *p* *poco sf* *p*

36

6

Cues

Kbd.

Pno.

p *mp* *p* *pp*

p *poco sf*

39

Kbd.

Pno.

mp *p* *pp*

mp *p*

slow
(sempre) p sempre, molto sonore

(E^b)

41

Kbd.

Pno.

p *p* *p*

[illegible]

47 a tempo (♩=c.60) rit. molto

Cues

Kbd.

Pno.

8

p

poco sf

p *sonore* *pp*

l.v. al niente

l.v. al niente

8

July 7, 2024
San Diego, California