μοιρολόι (n.) – L’ I meant

A performer-specific, music theatre work for countertenor James Cave, actress, mezzo, tenor saxophone and tape [ca. 16’30”].

(2012)

Transcribed score and stage directions.

Nektarios Rodosthenous
Instruments

Actress
- needle
- presentation black paper folder
- random neurology texts on hypothermia, in hand-out form (contained in the black folder)

Countertenor
- 5 black balloons
- coffee wooden sticks
- temple blocks

Tenor saxophone
- (empty) soft drink can in the bell of the saxophone

Mezzo

Tape operator
- Produce the water drop sound effect with his mouth during the temple blocks sequence

Characters (all performers are opted to wear black)

Protagonist – Countertenor: James Cave
Wife figure – Actress: Lauren Garnham
Lover – Mezzo: Anna Papagiannaki Divani
The current version was premiered in Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall, Music Department, York. This is a good reference point for the stage plan, but it can be re-structured for future performances.
For James Cave

L’I meant

Dedicated to the people that died due to hypothermia

Nektarios Rodosthenous

Actress

ON STAGE:
Sat on chair

Tacet

Mezzo

OFF STAGE:
Out of the venue

Tacet

Tenor
Saxophone

ON STAGE:
MIDDLE REGISTER
MULTIPHONES + CAN NOISE (BELL) (p) poss.

Tacet

Countertenor

INFLATE TWO BALLOONS + TIE THEM UP
(SLOWLY)

4/4 Rhythm
Made from edited breaths

Navy Seal Interview On Cold Water

Navy Seal Interview II (Poem)

Navy Seal Interview I (Edited)

Navy Seal Interview II (Edited Poem)
Tenor Saxophone

Simile: Middle Registered Multiphonics

Tacet
ON STAGE:
Sit on chair

Countertenor

Move from stool to center microphone

Navy Seal Interview I (Edited)

Navy Seal Interview II (Edited Poem)

1’00”
1’10”
1’30”
2’00”

Countertenor

Simile: Inflate and let the air come out (cont’d)

Put the deflated balloon on the stand and stand still/neutral

Simile: Scuba Diving Sounds

Tenor: (pre-recorded) ‘This is...’ for James Cave

Monarch Delay Apology:
Text-to-speech computer realisation of e-mail

2’00”
2’22”
2’30”
3’00”
**Countertenor**

*Sing Melody (dolce p)*
“We hope, that you choke, that you choke” *’Exit Music’*

**Tenor Saxophone**

**Tacet**
(Sat on stage)

Inflate a Balloon and pull the neck mouthpiece sideways to produce multiphonics

**Countertenor**

*Sim: UPS vibrato*

**Tacet**

Prepared Piano Resonance

Baby’s edited high register screams/multiphonics

**Tacet**

York Toilet Flush: High reg multiphonics
cresc. t ascending pitch

**Tacet**

Sing: (Simile)

PREVIOUS NOTE

UPS (Hand Shakes)

REST

Breathe Silently

PREPARED PIANO RESONANCE

JAZZ: Edited Extreme Vibrato Incalzando

Prepared Piano Resonance

JAZZ: Edited Extreme Vibrato

SILENCE

5’00”  5’14”  5’24”  5’34”  5’35”  5’45”  5’54”  6’00”
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mezzo</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OFF STAGE:</strong></td>
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<td><em>Outside the Hall</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tacet</td>
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<td>Tacet</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tenor Saxophone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multiphonics</strong> (sim):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>mf</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacet</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT ON STAGE:</td>
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<tr>
<th>Countertenor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BALLOON MULTIPHONICS</strong> (Run out of air)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ON TEMPLE BLOCKS</strong> Perform with finger tips, not nails. Not amplified, <em>mp.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WITH AND AGAINST THE TAPE OPERATOR.</strong> (Not busy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tacet</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tape Operator:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tacet</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water drops sounds</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water drops sounds, mp not amplified, not very busy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7’00”</td>
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<td>7’08”</td>
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<td>7’38”</td>
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<td>8’00”</td>
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Tacet

Perform: ‘Ttt’ like when you do when you are in cold water
shake. Perform uneven roll on stand/temple blocks (p)

Countertenor/
Coffee sticks

Perform: with and against the tape (mf) unamplified.
Use words that have similar sounds choose from:
old, cold, colder, πάγος, agony, ἀγονός

Sim: Turn to the Actress. Loss of speech / love

TETTE: Baby (Edited) ➔ Pre-Recorded CT’s Voice: Words

Prepared Piano Improv ➔ Cold Cold Older Πάγος Πάγος Αγονός Αγονός Πάγος ἀγονός

“What are you talking about?
I don’t understand I can’t hear you”

Stand up and walk towards him

INTENSITY

SHOUT:
“Look at me. Talk to me”

Continue the dialogue

TACET: Loss of speech love and now life. Slowly go in on embryo position

DEATH

ΣΙΛΕΝΣΕ

11’00” ’02” ’05” ‘20” ‘40” ‘45” 12’00”

Look at him, He looks at you.

Start getting involved presence
Text: One of the functions of the human brain is body temperature management. No, not core body temperature, whole body temperature. The part of the brain responsible is the oldest and therefore the most experienced one: the Hypothalamus. Situated in the limbic system body temperature management can be proven tricky and challenging at times. And if the brain does not have the means to keep the body at a steady temperature, then it starts making compromises. You get cold fingers, toes, ears and nose then cold hands and feet (pause).

Text: The human body can lose heat in four ways: conduction, convection, radiation and evaporation. All these are good and even welcomed by the human body as they keep it from overheating. Nevertheless in certain environmental conditions the human body can lose too much heat. For example the human body when immersed in water can lose 32 more times heat.

Text: After the initial symptoms, shivering begins and starts to become violent and uncontrollable.
You cannot talk anymore or talk freely, and you gradually lose alertness. This leads to full muscle rigidity, blue lips and blue skin under your nails and a blue-ish tint to the skin all over your body. Once the shivering has stopped, you are stunned, breathing is too shallow to sustain life and your heart beat is too erratic. Soon you are unconscious and moments after you fall into a coma, and this leads to death. During those few moments, the brain has been trying to preserve life. It was shutting down parts of the body, one after the other in order to keep the most important parts of the body warm: the internal organs.

Text: In the very last moments before expiring it does the second to last move; it switches off breathing. Breathing, regardless how vital it is, is a double threat: inhaling invites more cold air in the core of the body, and exhaling is getting rid of precious heat balancing on the razor edge between life and death. The brain runs its last trick. It releases all painkiller hormones available, and paralysed, calm, task-free and pain-free, it fades.

Text: The final shudder marks the beginning of the end.

Get the needle and go/walk slowly to stool.

Pick up a balloon walk slowly above countertenor body and pop the balloon

Throw the leftovers of the balloon to the countertenor.

Text: What was he trying to say I wonder (Pause)