

The Birds; they stare at me from the window

for solo soprano

Melissa Rankin

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“through the world distance static distant quiet stillness still birds windows degree movement quietness chirping buzzing.”



spoken word, approximate pitch



unpitched breathy tone



whisper



inhale



exhale

The Birds; they stare at me from the window

for Stephanie Lamprea

Melissa Rankin

Spacious and free
at peace with the environment surrounding you

Soprano

powerful inhale, build up in speed
soft → **fff**

slow and calm,
extremely breathy
← **ppp**

breathy → **p** → **ffff**

calmly disperse into air
like a breathy release
← **ppp** →

[huh] [h] [huh] ah

amplification

Live electronics

distant, no vib.
like humming to oneself
← **pp** → **f**

ca. 5" breathy release

sharp inhale
abruptly,
with urgency
← **ff** → "Look around the room like you are
bored and unbothered. Don't make
it too obvious you are humming"
distant, n.v.
sub. **ppp** ca. 8"

hm tuhhhhh [huh] hm tuhhhhh [h] [h] uh

almost no sound
natural breathing
← **ppp** → **f**

ca. 8" "more present"

slow delay, subtle and barely noticeable
← **ppp** → **pp**

hold!

nv, static and distant
smooth transitions between syllables
← **pp** → **ff**

gradually start to bring it forward

throaty cut off,
harsh
→ **mf** → **pp**

distant
delicate, ghostly
soft exhale

sim. **pp** gliss.

through the wor - I - d(uh) oh d d d [uh] di - - s - tant

reverb and delay, more prominent than last time *off*

delay "disssssss..." → **mf**

sim. *<mp> pp*

slow release, calm
ensure minimum 3" of pure silence

wait for electronics to fade

distant *ppp*

hold for as long as possible

ppp

ss - still - nesssss [huh] hm tih mm

1. *2.*

alternate freely between
ee oo hm oh ng
interpret as you wish!

nasally *ppp*

ng

oh a o ah hm tih mm

ppp *p* *pp* *mf*

improvise electronics (?) - subtle

back → front → back

ppp

mm → *ah*

zz

→ *back*

7

barely audible, calm and meditative
very spacious and delicate
take time with each breath

ppp ← → *pp*

[h] [huh]

amplified with slight reverb

pp

3

allow for electronics to overpower slightly

1

ppp ← → *pp* ← → *ppp* ← → *pp* ← → *ff* ←

[h] [huh] [h] [huh] [huh]

delay and reverb getting stronger

slightly chaotic, lots of delay

delay off, amplification stays

distant, nv *ppp* grittily, throaty <*mf* *sub. ppp* curiously and suddenly *mp* whisper *pp* like a train slowing down smooth transition *ppp*

mm uh mm oh a oh ah oh ah tih tih tih ts

fff

J = 50
whispered speech. *pp* 3 *mf* sweetly *fff* forceful, frustrated allow sound to fully disperse and decay leaving c. 5" of silence *ff* frantic, go wild! *mp* *p*

Does a-ny-one hear me? Can a-ny-one hear me? ee

small reverb

ghostly *mp* <*f* = *p* *ff* arrogant scoff harsh and throaty *mf* rollercoaster *p* *ff* *mp* *sub. ff* sim. *mf* *ff* moody, cheeky mischievous

ee yuh [ugh]! ee yuh [ugh]! ee yuh [ugh]! ee ugh ugh

2

4

sweetly *mp* *f* harsh *mf* delicate *p* *mp* gliss *f* abrupt ending *pp* *p* *pp* → breathy exhale sim.

ee yuh oh a o ah ee uh ee uh uh

reverb and delay

pp

ecstatic laughter - go wild!

Take your time at this section
Allow for space and don't rush the rests

whispered scream
mouth as wide open as possible

sharp frantic gasp, with fear
like struggling for air