

The Birds; they stare at me from the window

for solo soprano

Melissa Rankin

*The Birds; they stare at me from the window*

for solo soprano

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

x

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**

[huh] [h] [huh] ah

**Live electronics**

amplification

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

←

slow and calm, extremely breathy **ppp**

←

breathy **p** → like struggling for air extremely gritty **fff**

←

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

←

distant, no vib. like humming to oneself **pp** ca. 5" → breathy release **f**

←

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" → "more present" **f** → almost no sound natural breathing **ppp**

←

natural breath, calm ca. 8" → slow release **mp**

←

hold!

hm tuhthhhh [huh] hm tuhthhhh [h] [h] uh

slow delay, subtle and barely noticeable **ppp**

nv, static and distant smooth transitions between syllables **pp** → throaty cut off, harsh **ff** → distant delicate, ghostly **mf** → soft exhale

gradually start to bring it forward

sim. **pp** gliss.

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

reverb and delay, more prominent than last time "off" delay "disssssss..." **mf**

sim.  $\text{mp} \rightarrow \text{pp}$

ss - still - nessssss

[huh]

slow release, calm  $\text{ppp}$

wait for electronics to fade  
ensure minimum 3" of pure silence

distant  $\text{ppp}$

$\text{mp}$

hold for as long as possible  $\text{ppp}$

1. 2.

hm tih mm

delay

"nessnessness..."

$\text{ff}$

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

nasally  $\text{ppp}$

ng

oh a o ah hm tih mm

$\text{mp}$

$\text{ppp}$

$p$

$\text{pp}$

$\text{mf}$

improvise electronics (?) - subtle

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

back  $\text{ppp}$  front  $p$  back

front back

mm ah zz mm

$\text{ppp}$

$\text{pp}$

[h] [huh]

amplified with slight reverb

$\text{pp}$

allow for electronics to overpower slightly

**ppp** ←

[h]

**pp** →

[huh]

**ppp** ←

[h]

**pp** →

[huh]

**ff** ←

[huh]

frantic and gritty  
fast inhale, as if struggling for air

delay and reverb getting stronger

slightly chaotic, lots of delay

\*delay off, amplification stays\*

**fff**

distant, nv

**ppp**

gritty, 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 oh ah

tih tih tih

ts

♩ = 50

whispered sprech.

**pp**

3

Does a-ny-one hear me?

Can a-ny-one hear me?

sweetly

**mf**

forceful, frustrated

**fff**

allow sound to fully disperse and decay  
leaving c. 5" of silence

frantic, go wild!

**mp**

**ff**

**p**

ee

small reverb

ghostly

**mp**

**f**

**p**

**ff**

arrogant scoff  
harsh and throaty

**mf**

rollercoaster

**p**

**ff**

**mp**

sub. **ff**

sim.

**mf**

moody, cheeky

**ff**

mischievous

ee

yuh

[ugh]!

ee

yuh

[ugh]

ee yuh

[ugh]!

ee

ugh ugh

