Act Without Words I

(A piano accompaniment for Samuel Beckett's play.)

William Osborne
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William Osborne
A pair of tailor's scissors descends from flies, comes to rest before tree, a yard from ground. He continues to look at his hands. Whistle from above.

He looks up, sees scissors, takes them and starts to trim his nails.

The palms close like a parasol, the shadow disappears. He drops the scissors, reflects.

A tiny carafe, to which is attached a huge label inscribed \textit{water}, descends from flies, comes to rest some three yards from ground.

Whistle from above.

He continues to reflect.

He looks up, sees carafe, reflects, gets up, goes and stands under it, tries in vain to reach it.

renounces, turns aside, reflects.

A big cube descends from flies, lands. He continues to reflect.

Whistle from above.

He turns, sees cube, looks at it, at carafe, reflects.
goes to cube, takes it up, carries it over and sets it down under carafe, tests its stability, gets up on it, tries in vain to reach carafe, A second smaller cube descends from flies, lands. He continues to reflect Whistle from above.

comes to second cube, looks at carafe, He turns, sees second cube, looks at carafe, goes to second cube, Come sopra takes it up, carries it over and sets it down under carafe, Reflective (lo stesso tempo) renounces, gets down, takes up second cube to carry it back to its place, thinks better of it, sets it down, goes to big cube, takes it up, carries it over and

comes to second carafe, looks at carafe, He turns, sees second carafe, looks at carafe, goes to second carafe, Come sopra takes it up, carries it over and sets it down under carafe, reflects and gets up on it, tries in vain to reach carafe, A second smaller carafe descends from flies, lands. He continues to reflect Whistle from above.
The third cube is pulled up and disappears in flies.

Beside canals a rope descends from flies, with knots to facilitate ascent. He continues to reflect.

Whistle from above. He turns, sees rope, reflects.

goes to it, climbs up it and... Ecitato; molto ritmico (presto)

is about to reach it when...

rope is let out and deposits him back on ground.

Reflective; non meno mosso

beside canals
(trill half step above note)

drops scissors, falls.

gets up again immediately, brushes himself.

With the length of rope in his possession he makes a lasso with which he

tries to lasso carafe. The carafe is pulled up quickly and disappears in flies.

He turns aside, reflects.

He goes with lasso in his hand to tree, looks at bough,

turns and looks at cubes,

looks again at bough.

drops lasso, goes to cubes, takes up small one,

succeeds in cutting rope, falls back on ground.

Reflective; non meno mosso
carries it over and sets it down under bough, goes back for big one, takes it up and carries it over under bough, makes to put it on small one, hesitates, thinks better of it, sets it down, takes up small one and puts it on big one, tests its stability.

The bough folds down against the trunk.

He straightens up with lasso in hand, turns and sees what has happened.

He drops lasso, turns aside, reflects. He carries back cubes to their place, one by one, Come sopra

The bough folds down against the trunk.

He straightens up with lasso in hand, turns and sees what has happened.

He drops lasso, turns aside, reflects. He carries back cubes to their place, one by one, Come sopra

He turns aside, reflects.

Immediately fung back on stage

He reflects, goes outright.

Tempo II

Whistle from right wing.

Immediately fung back on stage

He reflects, goes outright.

Tempo II

Whistle from right wing.

Immediately fung back on stage

He reflects, goes outright.

Tempo II

Whistle from right wing.

Immediately fung back on stage

He reflects, goes outright.

Tempo II

Whistle from right wing.
runs his finger along blade of scissors, goes and lays them on small cube, turns aside, opens his collar, frees his neck and fingers it.

The small cube is pulled up and disappears in flies, carrying away rope and scissors. He turns to take scissors, sees what has happened.

(To skip the instrumental section go to the coda sign on page 14.)

He goes and sits down on big cube.

A trombone (or other instrument) descends from the flies.

Cantabile

He takes the trombone and plays.
The cube is pulled from under him.

He falls.

The big cube is pulled up and disappears in flies.

He remains lying on his side, his face toward auditors,

staring before him.

The carafe descends from flies and comes to rest a few feet from his body.

He does not move. The carafe descends further, dangles and plays about his face. He does not move.

The carafe is pulled up and disappears in flies.

The bough returns to horizontal, the palms open, the shade returns.

Whistle from above.

He does not move.

Whistle from above.

He does not move.

Whistle from above.

He does not move.

The tree is pulled up and disappears in the flies.
He looks at his hands.