Act Without Words I

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

William Osborne
Act Without Words I

(A piano accompaniment to Samuel Beckett’s work.)

William Osborne

Scene: Desert. Dazzling light.

Ephemeral and rubato (\(\text{\textdual} = \text{ca. 40}\))

A man is flung backwards on stage from right wing.

Tempo II: piu mosso (\(\text{\textdual} = \text{ca. 50}\))

He falls, gets up immediately,

(dialogue)

Whistle from right wing.

He reflects, goes out right.

Tempo II

A man dusts himself, turns aside, reflects.

Tempo I

Immediately flung back on stage, He falls, gets up immediately;

Immediately flung back on stage, He falls, gets up immediately.

He falls, gets up immediately,
dusts himself, reflects.

Tempo III (c. ca. 60)

Whistle from left wing. He reflects.

Tempo I goes out left.

he falls, gets up immediately.

Immediately flung back on stage.

Aside, reflects.

goes toward left wing, hesitates, thinks better of it, halts, turns aside, reflects.

A little tree descends from the flies, lands. It has a single bough some three yards from
the ground and at its summit a meager tuft of plams casting at its foot a circle of shadow

Whistle from above. He reflects.

Whistle from above. He continues to reflect.  He turns, sees tree.

selects, goes to it, sits down in its shadow, looks at hands.

Tempo III
A pair of scissor'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 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. He turns, turns aside, reflects. Whistle from above. He turns, sees cube, looks at it, at carafe, reflects.
The third cube is pulled up and disappears in files.

Beside carafe a rope descends from files, with knots to facilitate ascent. He continues to reflect.

Whistle from above. He turns, sees rope, reflects, goes to it, climbs up it and

Ecatate; molto ritmico (presto)

is about to reach it when

He reflects, looks around for scissors, sees them, goes and picks them up,

Reflective: non meno mosso

rope is let out and deploys him back on ground.
returns to rope and starts to cut it with scissors.

The rope is pulled up, lifting him off the ground, he angers on.
drops scissors, falls, gets up again immediately, brushes himself

Reflective, non meno mosso

With the length of rope in his possession he makes a lasso with which he treks 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,
carnes it over and sets it down under bough; goes back for big one, takes it up and carnes it over under bough, makes to put it on small one, hesitates, thrins better of it, sets it down, takes up small one and puts it on big one, tests their stability.

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

Come sopra

The bough folds down against the trunk.

He drops lasso, turns aside, reflects. He carries boughs to their place, one by one.

goes back for lasso, carries it over to boughs and lays it in a neat coil on small one.

He turns aside, reflects.

Whistle from right wing.

Tempo II He reflects, goes out right.

Immediately flung back on stage.

he falls immediately, brushes himself, turns aside, reflects.

Whistle from left wing. He does not move.

Chorus: tranquil

He looks at his hands, looks around for scissors, sees them, goes and picks them up, starts to trim his nails, stops, reflects,
runs his finger along blade of scissors, goes and lays them on small cube, turns aside, opens his collet, 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)

D.S. al Coda

He goes and sits down on big cube.

Cantabile

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

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

He falls, He remains lying on his side, his face toward auditorium.

The big cube is pulled up and disappears in flies.

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.

The tree is pulled up and disappears in the flies.