Act Without Words I

A piano accompaniment to Samuel Beckett's work.

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Scene: Desert. Dazzling light.

Ephemeral and robusto (L'eta, 4a)

Tempo I; più mosso (L'eta, 5a)

A man is flung backwards on stage from right wing.

He falls, gets up immediately.
Tempo I
dusts himself, turns aside, reflects.

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

Tempo II
Whistle from right wing. He reflects. He goes out right.

Tempo III (Facc. 100)

Tempo I
Whistle from left wing. He reflects. He goes out left.

Grazioso
Dusts himself, turns.
aside, reflects...

Whistle from above.

He reflects.

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

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

He continues to reflect.

Tempo III

poco rallentando

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

A pair of tallow scissors descends from hills, comes to rest before trees, a yard from ground. He continues to look at his hands.

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.
Tempo II
A tiny carate, to which is attached a huge label inscribed with the words, "descends from flies, comes to rest some three yards from ground."

Both hands eva.

He continues to reflect. He looks up, sees carate, reflects, gets up, goes and stands + 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 carate, reflects. + goes to cube, takes it up, + carries it over and + sets it down under carate, tests its stability, + gets up on it, + tries in vain

senza padale.

to reach carate, + renounces, + + + It gets down, carries cube back + to its place, turns aside, reflects. + Whistle from above to reflect.

A second smaller cube descends from flies, lands. He continues + Whistle from above.
He takes a second cube, looks at it, + takes it up, carries it over and + sets it down under carafe, +

at carafe, (2) goes to second cube,

Come soprano

sempre

+ tries in vain to reach carafe, + + resonances, gets down, takes up + second cube to carry it back + to its place, hesitates, thinks better of it, sets it down,

Reflective (lo stesso tempo)

+ goes to big cube, takes it up, + carries it over and +

sempre

(Tempo II)

gets up on them, + + the cube collapses, he falls, + gets up immediately,
Poco meno mosso (crescendo)

- brushes himself, + reflects.
-+
-+
-+
-+
-+
-+
-+

Tempo II (crescendo)

He takes up small cube,

+ puts item big one, tests its stability,
+ gets up on them and is about to reach carafe when
+ +

Tempo IV (crescendo)

-+ it is pulled up a little way one comes to rest beyond his reach.
-+
+ He gets + down, + reflects, slows down in a slow
+ carries cubes back to their place, one by one, turns aside + reflects.
+ +

A third still smaller cube descends from the heavens. He continues to reflect.

Whistle from above. He turns, sees third cube, looks at it, reflects, turns aside, reflects.
Rope is let out and deposits him back on ground.

Reflective; non meno mosso

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

Come soprano.

He returns to rope and starts to cut it with scissors.

He hangs on.
Reflective (non menomosso)

+ succeeds in cutting rope, falls back on ground, drops

- scissors, falls, gets up again,立即 brushes himself, reflects. The rope is pulled up quickly and disappears in flies.

+ With length of rope in his possession, he makes a lasso with which he tries to lasso carcass. The carcass is pulled up quickly and disappears in flies.
He turns aside, reflects.  +

looks against bough,

drops lasso, goes to cubies, takes up small one, carries it over and sets it down under bough, grasps back for big one, takes it up and carries it over under bough.

Presto

He adjusts, puts it on big one, hesitates, thinks better of it, sets it down, takes up small one and puts it on big one, finds their stability.

Come sopra:

He drops lasso, turns aside, reflects. He carries back cubies to their place, one by one, goes back for lasso, carries it over to cubies and lays it in a neat coil on small one.
He turns aside, reflects. +
Whistle from right wing +
He reflects, goes out right.

Tempo II

Immediately: Flung back on stage

He falls, gets up immediately, brushes himself, turns + aside, reflects.
Whistle from left wing + He looks at his hands, looks around + for scissors, + sees them, goes and picks them up, starts to trim his nails.

Chorale, tranquil

He does not move.

mp (Chorale broken from bottom)

(silence)

He 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 film, carrying away rope and scissors. He turns to take scissors, sees what has happened + he turns aside, + reflects.
Cantabile

The cube is pulled from under him. He falls. The big cube is pulled up and disappears in the flies. He remains lying on his side, his face toward auditiors, staring before him.

(Cb see appendix for optional instrumental theatre insert.)

The cube descends from the flies and comes to rest a few feet from his body. He does not move. Whistle from above. He does not move. The cube descends further, dangles and plays about his face. He does not move.

The cube is pulled up and disappears in the flies.

The bough returns to horizontal, the palm opens, the shade returns.

Whistle from above. He does not move.

The tree is pulled up and disappears in the flies.

He looks at his hands.

morendo poco a poco
Appendix: optional insert for instrumental theatre. (Trombone)

A trombone descends from flies.

He takes trombone and plays.

The trombone is pulled from his hands and disappears in flies.

(Removed directly to page 12.)