84bpm **JB**

* М * When we least think we are working is when we begin to work. Accepting what comes * easily is not the same thing as accepting what is easy. Accepting what comes easily means not confusing effort and result: things made with effort sometimes show only effort, things made with ease are not necessarily easy. * * Some things made with effort also arrive at ease; some things made with ease * * are effortless. * * * * (*) The preceding sentence about what comes easily, for instance, did not come easily.

I

We have at least begun and nothing should now break the surface of the music. We will follow a set of rules: impossible rules, rules upon rules, broken rules and abandoned rules. * A reluctant communication, as though at an audition or sitting an exam. An unsure demeanour, as though testing the water. There will be an air of inevitability. * We will accept what might easily happen next. Composition is about making a choice including the choice to make no choice; music is a negotiation with the patterns your fingers are thinking. * * * Music is a negotiation with the patterns your fingers are thinking. * *

*

Words hold between them a which thread of thought pulls you by the nose onwards. * Nothing is happening. We will, however, go on unfolding ourselves slowly. It isn't easy to go on talking about what comes easily and at the same time manage at all to hold on to the subject. The mind quite easily wishes to switch to the next tangentially connected thought or story. * Then before you know it you are lost. Or perhaps what you want is to be lost? We don't know what we're doing and we're doing it. * * * We don't know what we are doing and we are doing it, and everything is stolen anyway.

*

*

*

(*)

What comes easily can arrive already in a state of delirious complexity. Accepting the stupid thought does not necessarily * mean you are stupid. Walking back towards what you fear can also be a way of going * * * forwards. Concentration is the only method and we are trying, best we can * * not too hard, * * to concentrate. Not too hard. Best we can, not too hard, * * to concentrate. *

J

*

*

*

*

4

```
What rules
*
there are
are both spoken
and unspoken.
*
*
We prefer
             the
word
'principle',
for fear
of the fear
of rules.
For fear
            of the
fear
of rules.
*
*
*
*
A principle is
a map
for a landscape
where no map
*
*
exists?
You can enter
*
the landscape
*
without
           a
map,
           but
then
*
you may
*
feel lost.
*
*
Or
perhaps
*
       what you
want
is to be
```

lost?

5

JB

* M & J Music is composed of melodies and * rhythm and joy and sadness and joy and and sadness, dancing is comcomposed of positions, sinkings, risings, springings, capers, fallings, slidings and turnings, and words are com-* of posed thoughts, and out they come and out they come and we must continue, and out they come and out they come and we must conand we tinue, don't know what we're doing but we're doing it, we don't know what we're doing but we're doing it, and everything is stolen. * * * (earplug in) * * * * * *

6 JB

* M & J Welcome, welcome and here we are, * with empty hands and easy does it, easy does it. Stealing from yourself is good but stealing from others * is even better and easy does it. And the music helps with its little melodies, very uplifting, very uplifting and all stolen as usual, all stolen and easy does it. We don't know what we are doing and we are doing it, and you are here, and we are here. and here we are and everyone is

welcome. Everyone is welcome and everything will be explained, and you can come along, come along and you can come along. And the music helps with it's little melodies, very uplifting.

We 're so out of practice, *(earplug out)* we're so out of breath, we 're so out of practice, we're so out of breath. And so endeth the first part of the lecture. 7 69bpm **JB**

84bpm **JB**

* We have no idea who the who of you is, but we come out of the door anyway. *

J

*

*

We've been in your position and know that, even knowing the situation, we could easily mistake

the brightness of our entrance for a certain exercise of power.
Tonight however, from our perspective, you already put up a rather resistant air, through which even the one or two of you who are with us are barely managing to push.

* Your faces glow from a wall of black,

*

(*)

sea anemones: * defiantly shut,

though we open ourselves <u>best we can,</u> <u>maximum strength;</u>

like

* <u>best we can.</u>

As Denis said of his Paris performances, 'Yes it was nice, if you liked being tortured by French people who hate you'. How the audience sit is how we should sit. Please Lord, let them give us permission to think ourselves invincible. And bless the bourgeoisie in the front row, towards whom we lavished incandescent violence. This is for all the people who ever had to clap, trapped at the end of a show we were in they disliked, we're sorry it must have been awful. We're sorry it must have been awful. The way time passed so slowly, <u>so</u> slowly. It must have been <u>awful.</u> The way time passed <u>so</u> * slowly. We're sorry it must have been awful. * * *

М

*

(*)

*

And every time you closed your eyes, something happened that made you think you'd better look, and you looked again and nothing happened. The way you grew to dislike us, not least because some people liked it and clapped hard, so you had to clap just a little to be polite, which made you <u>dislike</u> everyone. * Let's be honest, when we talk about audience we are talking of ourselves. * We are often audience members, so anything we say or think about audience must include us as likely candidates. * * * * * * * * *

*

*

J

*

```
We can be
difficult
to please
and hate
being patronised.
Sometimes
*
we like
to be pressed back
into our seats
by the sheer
force
of the thing
unfolding
in front of us,
open-mouthed
and emptied
*
of thought.
*
*
*
* (8)
*
*
*
*
Baroque
churches
do this,
       also
*
*
Pina Bausch
Performances
                 and
anything
involving
*
explosives.
*
*
On the other hand,
sometimes
we prefer to be
```

invited,

to be included and nudged into thought.

*

The relation with audience is a circular thing: * * we give the audience clues as to how they might sit, * and they in turn give us permission to relax and do what we've best come to do. * * (5) * * * Sometimes * the permission is slow * in coming, and sometimes, on rare occasions beyond anyone's control, the permission never arrives. In those cases the audience is grateful to you if you fake it.

12

JB

М

*

As an audience we take up the first and strongest things that come in our direction. These become the subject. * * * When the performer begins they make a contract with us that teaches us the language as it un-* folds. * * * You will by for now, have instance, realised that we are going to go on doing this. (earplug in) It may or may not be <u>a</u> <u>pleasure</u> equal to that of witnessing magic.

*

*

*

*

*

*

69bpm **JB**

began with empty hands and they continue to be empty. * As soon as we think we know what might happen, nothing happens. If on the other hand we accept that our hands are empty then something usually turns up to fill them. * * (5) * * * If we hold on tight to things we value saying, 'This would make a very good ending', for instance, it usually doesn't make a very good ending at all. We prefer to use our favourite material first, and we have no idea how this will end.

J

*

*

*

*

*

*

This talk

	We must neverthe- less try our best,
*	maximum strength best we can to continue.
(*)	The expression maximum strength comes, by the way, from our yoga teacher Shiv Sharma, who is famed for
	a number of expressions, including our personal favourite:
*	'Kundalini? * You want
	* Kundalini? You can't even touch your toes!'
М	This talk is a negotiation with the
*	space of the
*	page and the
*	written
	form and the
*	room we are
*	in to a sthem
-1-	together: under the same
	roof
	together.
	*
	*
	The space of the
	room and the
	written form
	create the time
	within which this is
	happening.
	*

15 **JB**

84bpm

There are other times also				
overlapping around us.				
The time	of the			
changing projected words counterpoint	of the is in			
to the flow speaking.	of our This			
beat	of the			
projected words	is in			
counterpoint				
flow of our speaking, marking				
boundaries	of			
thoughts	as they			
pass- pass- *	as they			
	as they			
pass.	-			
Hidden	from			
you	but			
present	to			
us	is the			
time	of the			
earpiece	which			
guides us	through the			
slipperiness temporal	of the			
storm	of			
adrenaline	in our			
bodies	0114			
anchoring words.	our			
The earpiece distracts us				
enough, we				
hope, from				
ourselves, that				
ourselves might become				
visible				

visible.

Each of the times we're describing is talking to the of the time music behind us, and around us. The music is a wall of rhythm against which our thoughts can lean. The pulse of the music is an emotional map, by which we might navigate the watery meanderings of language. The silences-* * the silences between words and the * silences between sounds are different * silences, but both arrive at a punctuation which guides our reactions and gives for our time responses. Even the most simple conjunction of times becomes complex, and we love that complexity.

18 69bpm JB

(*) J If you have difficulty putting together what you see and hear, allow it, gently perhaps, to flow over you; and if you have difficulty understanding what we might call poetry, allow that to flow over you also. What you want to hear will have done its work anyway, and you can relax and trust that slowly, as we continue, some sense will slowly be made. * Slowly. * Meaning is what accumulates in collaboration between what happens in the gaps between words, and the gaps * between thoughts. * * It's not necessary that all of us immediately understand everything that is happening.

*

*

* * (7) * *

*

- *
- *
- * *
- * (6)
- *
- * *

М

- We are trying to perform in the present, but you are living also the past of your recognition and the * future of your * expectations, which are our constant companions.
- (*) With us, in the room are our histories and our hopes, not least the hope of a nice meal and a cold beer. With us are all of the
 - people we have spoken with today.
 - With us * are all of the people we have spoken with * today.

84bpm

*

Some of the times deliberately collide and some have just collided. * Counterpoint assumes a love between the parts. * I must be exactly myself, and at the same time I must give up myselfmyselfexactly to the person next to me. Counterpoint assumes a love between the In this parts. act of relinquishing self we experience a momentary freedom, as though we had looked briefly away. Sharing time can be as awkwardly intimate as sharing the lift. Sharing time can be as awkwardly intimate as sharing the lift.

*

20

JB

21 69bpm **JB**

Our simultaneous histories also awkwardly overlap. * * Events which we perceive as points on a timeline coexist in our memories. This piece was written and is being performed in a line, starting at the beginning and continuing until the end. As soon as we begin to perform however time begins to riot. What comes first determines what can happen next, and what happens next alters what has come before. Our perception of the speed at which time is passing is completely shifted by a darkened room and an enforced state of attention: things appear to either speed up or, alternatively, to

*

J

*

*

*

down.

slow

Not only must things change, but the rate at which they change should also change. Or: Patterns of predictability and unpredictability must be both predictable and unpredictable. * Composition is what in the happens gap between one thought * and the next thought. Meaning arises between things, and is altered by their relationship. Flow is an accident of the attempt to get from one event to the next event: which things only flow give us nothing against which to read the flow. * * Rhythm is about heightened attention in an open field. *

22 **JB**

*

*

23 84bpm **JB**

Think of pulse and we think of a heartbeat: boob boom, boom boom, boom boom. Or perhaps we might think of walking: boom boom, boom boom. When we dance to a beat, our bodies organise and coordinate themselves around the rise and resolution of each beat, in a gentle collaboration between falling and standing. * When we dance together to a beat we are usually not trying to express ourselves, but rather to lose ourselves in a field of expression. Most of the world likes to dance to a beat. Most of the world likes to dance to a beat. * *

*

М

*

Later in the evening you may see us dance, perhaps, just a little. The rhythm you will when we see dance is different to the rhythm you might hear. The rhythm you will see is weaker and more delicate than the rhythm we make when we or walk speak, loudly, or play and we must music, try, best we can maximum strength to balance the two. Things that appear complex when you see them, may be rendered simple when you hear them; and things that are simple when you hear them may become complex when you see them. We call these two kinds of rhythm visual rhythm and aural rhythm. Placing these two rhythms together creates the thing called choreography.

*

*

*

(*)

*

This talk is a translation of the talk given by John Cage in 19-50 which he called, 'Lecture on Nothing'. 'Lecture on Nothing' is a spoken performance written in the manner of a piece of music. When we say translation, we mean that we have borrowed the of what structure John Cage wrote, which he described as a rhythmic structure: meaning by that, a predetermined of shape empty time which would accept anything. The structure is built up of units of 48 measures each, subdivided in the following proportions: 7 6 14, 14 and 7, and the 5 larger sections of the piece have the same shape so the smaller parts reflect the form of the larger parts.

(*)

*

*

*

M & J

 $\begin{array}{c}
1 \\
2 \\
3 \\
4 \\
5 \\
6 \\
7 \\
8 \\
9 \\
10 \\
11 \\
12 \\
13 \\
14
\end{array}$

 $\begin{array}{c}1\\2\\3\\4\\5\\6\\7\\8\\9\\10\\11\\12\\13\\14\end{array}$



patterns does not suit everybody but it suits us, because we're not the worlds best improvisers. Pattern is what allows me to recognise your face in a crowd and you to recognise mine. We have called this piece 'Cheap Lecture' in reference to the piece John Cage wrote when he wanted to use Erik Satie's Socrate for a choreography by Merce Cunningham, and they could not afford to pay the rights for the music. So John Cage wrote a piece to replace it which he called 'Cheap Imitation'. Some people who will see our performance might think to themselves 'Aha, it's that kind of thing.' But we've discovered we're only good at that kind of thing. It's a preconception that an artist can make whatever they want to make whereas an artist can only make what they are able to

make.	
We	for
instance	would
love	to
make	a
Pina Bausch	
piece.	

.

J

*

*

*

(*)

*

This delight in

84bpm **JB**

		IV
M	1	
	wait	
	3	
	4	
	3 4 5	
	wait	
	7	
	1	
	1	
	1	
	wait	
	3	
	4	
	3 4 5 6	
	6	
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	2 3 4 5 6	
	6	
	7	
	8	
	7 8 9	
	10	
	11	
	12	
	wait	
	14	
	17	
	1	
	2	
	z wait	
	4	
	4 5 6	
	wait	
	8	
	9	
	wait	
	11	
	wait	
	13	
	wait	
	1	
	wait	
	3	
	4	
	wait	
	6	
	7	
	,	

IV

(4 beats) These numbers are an illustration of the proportions of our talk, and each one corresponds to a cluster of words. We are at the now of the start penultimate of the part We are piece. slowly going forwards to the end, and each idea that easily arises the suggests next idea. Repetition here is limited to occasional and words phrases or the echoes of ideas. These repetitions, when they occur, are a device to heighten or erode an image as it passes. They are a moment of recognition for the audience in a sea, in a of sea, change.

*

*

*

*

*

*

The pleasure of the familiar can guide us through any landscape including the landscape of language. Pattern is what allows me to recognise your face in a crowd and for you to recognise mine. When we speak in you are unison the hearing same thing twice simultaneously, which reveals small differences in our voices and personalities. The size of a nose or the folds of a chin are amplified precisely in relation to the similarities we identify in the face we are studying. * * The smaller the of degree difference in a field of activity the more we perceive what is

*

*

*

*

*

different.

We are slowly going forwards to the end, and each idea that easily arises suggests the next idea. Repetition is a device to intensify or erode something by showing it more than once. Replication of a phrase of music can arrive at a rapturous longing for more. A melody heard often enough can arrive at a heightened meaning that has passed through boredom into a state of grace. The return of a theme alters everything. Words repeated arrive eventually at incantation and movement when looped solidifies itself into something that hovers between marching and abandon. Repetition is one way of arriving at rhythm. *

We are now a little after the start of the penultimate of the part piece. * We are moving slowly forwards towards the end, and each idea that easily arises suggests the next idea which is sometimes a word or a phrase, or the of a imprint thought, that we have heard before. Repetition. Repetition is a device to emphasise or erode something by showing it more than once, more than It's a once. of moment recognition for the audience in a of sea change. The pleasures of the familiar are what guide us through landscapes, including the landscape of language.

*

*

*

*

*

Replication of a phrase of music can arrive at a rapturous for longing more. We wish for more only because we know it will stop * eventually. Our longing for is in more direct proportion to the expectation we have that things will eventually We change. recognize a difference between a repetition that is only filling time, and a repetition that resists deliciously our desire for the new, without us ever feeling bored or frustrated. * * * * * * The repetition of a melody or a sentence can pass through boredom into a state of

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

grace.

Movements looped solidify themselves into something that between hovers marching and flight. Words arrive repeated eventually and irresistibly at prayer. When we speak in unison you are hearing the same thing twice simultaneously, which small reveals differences in our voices and personalities. * * The size of a nose or the folds of a chin are amplified in our because a perception face is a thing so recognisable that the smallest imperfection stands out like punctuation. The smaller the degrees of difference in a field of activity, the more we perceive what is different.

*

*

Repetition is useful sometimes in building the necessity for a change. Repetition. Repetition is also a way to arrive at rhythm: boom boom, boom boom. When we recognise something that has happened before, our memory builds a that map guides our imagination forwards towards what might happen next, and anticipation Our rises. anticiis pation premised upon the expectation that the future will hold both recognisable and unrecognisable events and experiences. When we sense a perfect balance of the predictable and the unpredictable it

appears to us often as an inevitability.

(8 beats) This piece was conceived in response to a commission to write some music for a piano once played by Schubert, now housed in a castle in Maasmechelen, a small town in Belgium. If tonight we have a piano, then well and good, and if let us not imagine а piano. * * In wondering what we could possibly with do Schubert's piano we recalled a book which had belonged to one of our grandmothers: it is called 'Famous Musical Composers' the kind of book you will remember from your childhood, with biographies of the greats, written in a romantic style. *

36 **JB**

*

*

(*)

So surprising in fact was the rapidity, so surprising the rapidity in fact, while a very little boy, while a very little boy, remarkably clear and beautiful, while a very little boy, remarkably clear and beautiful, and so full of feeling and expression, and feeling and expression, and so full of feeling and expression, the fat and awkward looking boy, the fat and awkward looking boy, so full of feeling and expression, the fat and awkward looking boy, who always wore spectacles, who always wore spectacles, always, it is a rather remarkable fact, more or less, more or less,

this was the beginning.

*

He was lovingly tended, this was the beginning, more or less, the beginning, he was lovingly tended, in his delirium, in his delirium, Beethoven, Beethoven, and quite astonished everyone who knew him by the progress he made in all branches of music, wasting his life in the drudgery of teaching little children, he had fat stumpy hands which were very unsuited as one would have

(country walks and picnics.)

* * * * * * * * * * * *

thought

piano.

for the

We are at least continuing, and nothing should now break the surface of the music. 38 **JB**

*

As we go forwards we must negotiate with the patterns our minds remember, the patterns which our legs and fingers and lips and fingers are itching to repeat. In your mind, as you listen, there is an unconscious negotiation with your memory of what has happened in this talk so far, and your expectation of what might happen in the future, between which lies balanced your ability to enjoy it. In the minds of the performers is a negotiation with their memory of your reactions to this talk so far, against which they are constantly comparing each new reaction, in a fruitless attempt to deduce what is happening as it is

happening.

*

*

*

This log book of your reactions will be discussed in the dressing room later on, in a thoroughly inaccurate * 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, way. This talk began with 1 * empty hands and they 2 continue to be 3 4 empty. 5 As soon as we think we know what might 6 happen 1 nothing 2 * happens. 3 4 If 5 on the other hand we accept 6 that our hands are 7 empty, then 8 something 9 usually turns 10 up to 11 fill them. 12 If 13 we hold on wait tight 1 to 2 things we value 3 saying, * 4 'This would make a 5 very good ending', for instance, it usually 6 doesn't make a very good 7 ending at 8 9 all. * 10 * 11 We prefer 12 to use our 13 favourite material 14 first, and we 1 have 2 no idea how 3 this will end. 4

			-
A memorable		*	5
	or		6
event,	when		wait
repeated,			
becomes	a		
scaffold	to		
support	what we're		
building,	as we		
build it.			
ound n.	It is a		
moment	of		
recognition fo	or the		
audience in a			
sea of			
change.			
The memorab	oility of an		
action or			
event,			
comes from it	ts		
ability to			
rub or			
	the		
knock against			
things on			
either			
side of it.			_
*			1
*			2
What is			3
memorable in	l		4
one place, ma	y not be as		5
memorable in			6
another.			7
	The	*	1
looping of a	1110		
short			2 3 4
			J 4
melody, at a			
certain			5
carefully chose	sen		6
speed which			1
makes us war	nt to		2
dance, is			3
what we call a	a		4
groove, and c			5
on almost in-	\mathcal{O}^{-1}		6
definitely and	1		7
•	L		8
accept	wa micht		
anything, that	we might		9

wish to float a- bove or crash a- gainst it. The right notes in the right order arrive at something so	*	10 11 12 13 wait 1 2 3
memorable that we have to think of other notes just get them out of our head. If you are struggling at	*	4 5 6 7 8 9
times to follow what we are saying, allow it perhaps, to flow gently over you: what you need to know will hopefully reveal itself as we continue to speak.		10 11 12 13 14 1 2 3 4 5 6 wait

Meaning is what accumulates slowly in the gap between what we are saying and what you are hearing. What doesn't hold your attention can be let go of easily, or provoke another more interesting

thought. Or maybe what you prefer is to close your eyes and listen to the music?

JB

*

104bpm **JB**

V

*

* * * * *

* * * * * *

* * * * *

* * * * * * * *

* * * * * * * * * *

*

- * * *
- *
- * * *
- *

J

I want to be a dancing man I want to be a dancing man

I

want to be a dancing man Ι want to be a dancing while I man can while I can Ι want to leave my footsteps while I can Ι want to leave my footsteps Ι want to leave my footsteps on the sands of time of time on the sands of time if I never leave a dime on the sands of time if I * * * * never leave a dime if I never leave a

dime

never be a millionaire never be a millionaire * I don't care never be a millionaire I don't care I don't care to leave my going footsteps going to leave my footsteps on the sands of time of time going to leave my footsteps on the sands of time on the sands of time if I never leave a dime Ι want to be Ι Ι want to be free as any bird can be free as any bird can be yes sirree free as any bird can be yes sirree yes sirree

going to leave my footsteps going to leave my footsteps my footsteps going to leave my footsteps on the sands of time on the sands of time if I never leave a dime * and I come now and out now I come out yeah like a cossack like a cossack * yeah and plenty of leg like a cossack yeah and plenty and plenty of leg and the whole thing yeah falling and the whole thing falling and I'm thinking and the whole thing falling and I'm thinking * * yeah

	and I'm	
thinking	Jesus	the
floor	and I'm	
thinking Jesus floor	the	
yeah Jesus floor yeah yeah *	the	
the music you	1	
hear is from Schubert		
more or less		
more or less		
some of this music		
may be		
familiar to		
you and some of		
this music		
may be		
*		
unfamiliar *		
to you	a	
papers	these	
Pupers	which we	
throw	.1	
floor	on the	
also		
	mark the	
time	as it	
passes		
*	as it	
passes *		
*		
*		
*		

here we are now * at the end end almost * * almost * of this talk yeah * almost * * yeah yeah * * * * * * * * * yeah and plenty of leg like a cossack yeah and plenty and plenty of and the leg whole thing yeah falling * yeah and the whole thing falling and I'm thinking and the whole thing falling and I'm thinking

yeah

* boom boom (arms raise) boom boom yeah yeah boom boom yeah * " boom boom boom boom yeah yeah boom boom yeah * " boom boom boom boom yeah yeah boom boom yeah * " boom boom boom boom yeah yeah boom boom yeah * " boom boom boom boom yeah yeah boom boom yeah * " boom boom boom boom yeah yeah boom boom yeah * " boom boom boom boom yeah yeah

boom boom