

Desperately Standing Upright

Homage to Tasumi Hijikata

5 mins

Nancy Tam

I have nothing to show you but my own body.

-Tasumi Hijikata

Desperately Standing Upright is based on the notes by Kayo Mikami, a former disciple of the butoh master Tasumi Hijikata.

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Score

Jo

with your heads on the back of Lisbeth's feet
(Ingrid on the left Helen on the right)

Voice 1
lay on your back eyes open slowly turn toward your side facing the audience
inhale and then exhale from your will
slowly waiting to your gaze
breathing together to your limbs
movements of the chest is subtly visible
slowly waiting slowly rise to a sitting fetal position on the floor
the sound of long breaths punctuate each inhale and exhale with a glottal stop

Voice 2

niente *p* *mp*
attacca

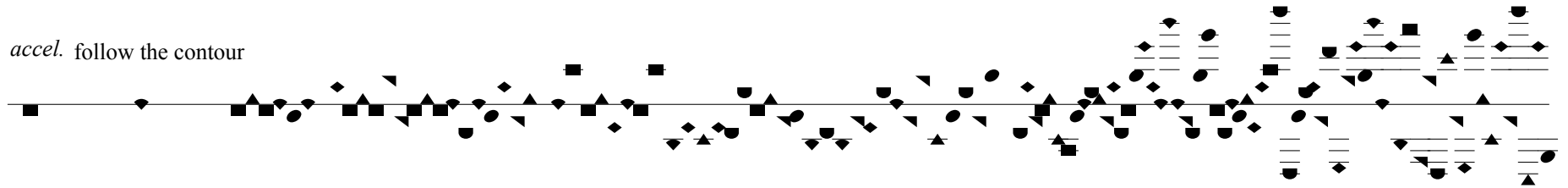
Movement *
A bug is crawling on the back of your right hand,
A second bug is creeping down from your left side of your neck to your back,
A third bug is wriggling up along your inner thigh,
A fourth bug is squirming down from your left shoulder to your chest,
A fifth bug ...

Time (in seconds)
0 15 30 45 60
Ah, where is it ?

*This inspiring text is not to be read out loud but committed to memory as instigators of movements.

Ha

accel. follow the contour



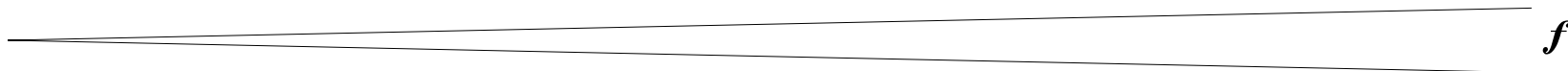
the breaths becomes little sounds, the sounds of bugs' legs climbing on your skin

V. 1 + 2
as time goes on...

more differing sounds are articulated from glottal stops
from sitting

mixed with voiced consonants
to kneeling

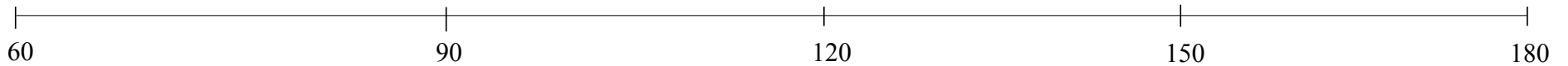
mixed with sung tones
to nearly standing



attacca

M.

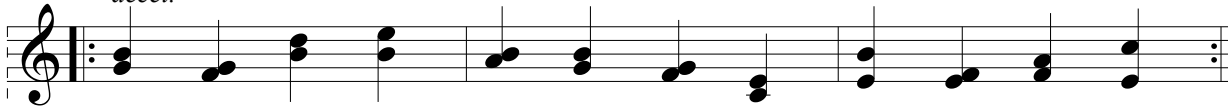
You're so itchy, here and there. You can't stand still.
Itchiness is shoving you all around,
Itchiness under your chin, itchiness at the base of your ears, itchiness around your elbows,
itchiness around your kneecaps, itchiness around your waist,
Ah! There're five-hundred of them!
Around your eyes, around your mouth, in your ears, between your fingers, in every mucous membrane
Five thousand bugs, a bug on every hair, a bug in every pore,
From there two hundred thousand bugs are crawling down into your guts and drilling them voraciously,
Having eaten them up the bugs are coming out of your body through the pores,



Kyu

Ascetically Slow

decel.



subito p

repeat this phrase as a chant
 with a slower tempo on each repeat
 the notated pitches indicate range and intervalic relationships only
 listen to each other's breath
 and
 stagger entrances to create these intervals relative to the tone that is already sung.
 long round vowels morphing from one sound to another seamlessly

Standing with a straight back

Now they are eating the space around your body,
 Now the bugs are full of the outer space and are being eaten (together with it) by another kind of bugs,
 Lo! The whole universe is being eaten up by another-another kind of bugs.
 (Half a billion bugs on a tree. The inside is all gone)

eyes open

waiting

slowly

breathing

niente

V. 1 + 2

M.

180

210

240

270

300

This is the end of the world.
 All has deceased.