

Todd Tarantino

All words are already decided

Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Piano



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(2011/15)

Instrumentation

Flute / Piccolo
Clarinet in Bb
Violin
'Cello
Piano

Score in C (all instruments notated at sounding pitch)

Duration: approximately 12 minutes

Program Note:

All words are already decided was originally inspired by an experience I had with my then one-year-old daughter during on a short layover in Dubai. The piece it became, after gestating for several years, being put aside, and later revised, had very little to do with that experience, instead becoming something that exists on its own as pure music, that though sometimes diverted, moves forward with a drive and power from its beginning to its end.

At its completion, I was at a loss for a name until I stumbled upon a line from the ancient Volsung saga: "Speech or silence, you yourself must choose. All words are already decided." Like children, musical ideas can become many things, and it is often not clear what they are even as they are becoming. As composers, we learn to follow our ear and the path that seems right at that time in our lives, allowing the music to form, however messy, shaping and guiding it in ways that match our manner of speaking and telling a story. We make choices and our work becomes what it is, always was, and will be.

Quarter-tone notation

♯ = 1/4-tone sharp

♯♯ = 3/4-tone sharp

♭ = 1/4-tone flat

♭♭ = 3/4-tone flat

For Further Information
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45" - 1.15"

like an invocation, *espressivo* long

Flute / Picc

Clarinet

Violin

Cello

Piano

7 8

dolce espressivo, sostenuto

7 8 $\text{♩} = 40$ 4 4 5 8 2 4

7 8 $\text{♩} = 40$ 4 4 5 8 2 4

p *mf* *mp* *poco f* *mf* *recit. feroce* *ff*

dolce espressivo, sostenuto

multiphonic of player's choice

8

p *mf* *mf* *f*

4/4 3/8 3/4

4/4 3/8 3/4

8

11

mf *poco f* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

3/4 7/8 3/4 6/8

3/4 7/8 3/4 6/8

11

ecstatic, breathless

Musical score for measures 14-18. The score is written for five staves: four vocal staves and one piano accompaniment staff. The time signatures are 6/8, 2/4, 4/4, 5/8, and 3/4. The music is marked with dynamics *f* and *mf*, and includes performance instructions such as *piangendo* and *cantabile*. The piano part features a *Rea* marking and a *con chiarezza* instruction. The vocal lines are highly melodic and expressive, with various ornaments and phrasing marks.

14

Musical score for measures 18-22. The score is written for five staves: four vocal staves and one piano accompaniment staff. The time signature is 3/4. The music is marked with dynamics *mf* and *f*. The piano part features a *Rea* marking and a *con chiarezza* instruction. The vocal lines are highly melodic and expressive, with various ornaments and phrasing marks.

18

*Rea

