

WAITING BY THE PHONE

for solo clarinet in B-flat

by

Evan Ziporyn

2014 Edition

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WAITING BY THE PHONE (1986)

solo clarinet in B-flat

length: approximately 12-14 minutes

2014 performance note by the composer

Like all my clarinet music, I wrote this for myself; unlike my more recent pieces, I didn't really consider the possibility of another player trying to decipher my intentions. So the original, hand-copied score had no dynamics, no tempi, no instructions other than the deliberately ambiguous markings at the beginning of each section. To the extent that these can or should be parsed, *Part One - Brittle, Fluid* means brittle articulation and fluidity of tempo (constant speed ups and slow downs); *Part Three - Fluid, Brittle* means fluid articulation and a medium, strict tempo. Dynamics & phrasing were free throughout. I've now added *suggested* dynamics, tempi, articulations, and other expressive markings, which more or less reflect the way I myself currently play the piece.

2007 program note by the composer

This piece was a cognitive self-portrait, an attempt to convey a way of being (thought, action, experience) that, for better or worse, prevailed within me in the mid-1980s. Something related to John Lennon's, 'Life is what happens while you're making other plans.' This piece being the feeling of that particular 'what happens.' In common with many composers writing for melodic instruments, I attempt to give the illusion of polyphony, multiple lines, harmony. In true polyphony no single voice prevails: the multiple lines here combine with a wandering sense of tempo to project a somewhat diffuse consciousness, only gradually and ephemerally becoming aware of its own nature. There are four sections, the first three roughly modeled on Hindustani *alap*, *jhala*, and *tal*. The fourth and final section came out of late nights rehearsing in Berkeley's Hertz Hall, where I could roam the huge stage and go up and down the aisles while playing, then stop to regard the resonance gradually turn into silence.

for JM
Waiting by the Phone

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PART ONE - BRITTLE, FLUID

$\text{♩} = 60$ *tempo always in flux* *accel.* $\text{♩} = 80$
dynamics free throughout except as indicated

rall. $\text{♩} = 60$

accel.

rall. 1. 2.

rall. *accel.* *rall.*

$\text{♩} = 80$ *tempo very mercurial*

$\text{♩} = 30$ *accel.*

$\text{♩} = 72$ *rall.*