

State of the Art

for the Chamber Cartel

Owen Davis (2015)

Instrumentation

Flute
Bass clarinet in Bb
Soprano Saxophone in Bb
Percussion
Piano
Double Bass

Program notes

State of the Art is a piece that explores the concept of “Accidental Art”. This idea could manifest in an action, statement, or construction that is created for ordinary purposes, but from another perspective could be re-framed as exceptional, thought-provoking art. This interdisciplinary work explores the musical implications of Accidental Art by operating in tandem with what at first seem to be three arbitrary YouTube videos: “Black Kid Goes Super Sayan”, “Prancercise: A Rhythmic Workout”, and a newly created video produced to trigger the phenomena of ASMR (Audio Sensory Meridian Response) in collaboration with Australian ASMR artist MassageASMR. While videos of this nature could be seen merely as ironic products of internet culture, State of the Art challenges that notion by introducing the idea that they could also be seen as passionate and genuine expressions of the modern human condition.

for the Chamber Cartel

State of the Art

mvt. 1 - ASMR

Owen Davis

♩ = 60 'inaudible whispers'

Flute: breath sound only, into head joint

Bass Clarinet in Bb

Soprano Saxophone: into mouthpiece (mouth shape), 3 key click

Percussion: s. d. irregular, extremely slowly across the head, b. d., mute on s. d., s. d. extremely muted with towel

Piano: 7th partial, 8th, 5th partial, 8th, tap keys with wooden object

Double Bass: slowly bow tailpiece, granular overpressure (no pitch)

Dynamic markings: *ppp*, *pp*, *mf*

11

Fl. breath sound only 'wood tapping' inaudibly speak the note names as you finger them in time

B. Cl. breath sound only

Sop. Sax. timb. trill

Perc. m. bowl s. d. bowl on drum w/sticks w/finger p > pp b. d. irregular mute off s. d.

Pno. muted 5 p tap keys with wooden object muted p

8th ppp

Db. col legno, jete gliss. 5 7 p mst msp pp 5

19

Fl. *pppp* breath sound only *p*

B. Cl. into mouthpiece (mouth shape) *pppp* breath sound only *p*

Sop. Sax. *pppp* breath sound only

Perc. *pp* *ppp*
m. bowl s. d. bowl on drum w/sticks w/finger
extremely muted with towel s. d. choptick

Pno. 7th harmonic *p* muted *mf*

Db. *pp* *ppp*
msp gliss. on body

27

Fl. *molto staccato tongue* *ppp* *molto staccato tongue* *ppp*

B. Cl. *molto staccato tongue* *ppp*

Sop. Sax. *molto staccato tongue* *ppp*

Perc.

Pno. *rub hands together*

Db. *mst (extreme)* *n*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score, page 4, starting at measure 27. It features six staves: Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Soprano Saxophone (Sop. Sax.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), and Double Bass (Db.). The Flute part begins with a series of sixteenth-note staccato patterns, marked 'molto staccato tongue' and 'ppp'. The Bass Clarinet and Soprano Saxophone parts have similar staccato patterns in later measures, also marked 'molto staccato tongue' and 'ppp'. The Piano part includes a section marked 'rub hands together' with specific rhythmic notations. The Double Bass part features a section marked 'mst (extreme)' with a 'n' below it, indicating a specific performance technique. The Percussion staff is mostly empty, with some rests.

'coffee bag'

31 inhale

Fl. *p* < *mp* *p* < *mf* 32"

B. Cl. inhale *p* < *mp* *p* < *mf* 32"

Sop. Sax. inhale *p* < *mp* *p* < *mf* 32"

Perc. **b. d.**
w/superball *n* *p* < *mf* 32"

Pno. muted *p* *pp* 32"

Db. *p* < *mf* 32"

Detailed description: This musical score page, numbered 5, is for a piece titled 'coffee bag'. It features six staves: Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Soprano Saxophone (Sop. Sax.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), and Double Bass (Db.). The Flute, Bass Clarinet, and Soprano Saxophone parts begin at measure 31 with an 'inhale' marking. They all play a half note, starting at a piano (*p*) dynamic and gradually increasing to a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic by measure 32. The Percussion part starts at measure 31 with a 'b. d.' (bass drum) marking and 'w/superball'. It plays a half note with a 'n' (snare) marking, starting at a piano (*p*) dynamic and increasing to *mf* by measure 32. The Piano part is silent until measure 32, where it plays a half note with a 'p' marking, then a half note with a 'pp' marking, and is marked 'muted'. The Double Bass part is silent until measure 32, where it plays a half note with a 'p' marking and increases to *mf* by measure 32. All parts end at measure 32.

47

Fl. *breath only*
mf

B. Cl. *breath only*
mf *inaudible mouth sounds (mic)*
f'

Sop. Sax. *breath only*
mf

Perc. *bow bowl* *bow music stand* *inaudible mouth sounds (mic)* *bow bowl*
mf *mp* *f'* *mf*

Pno. *inhale slowly into mic slowly*
p

Db. *bow body* *bow body* *inaudible mouth sounds (mic)*
f' *f'* *f'* *f'*

'mic brushing'

57

Fl.

B. Cl.

Sop. Sax.

Perc.

Pno.

Db.

inaudible mouth sounds(mic)

inaudible mouth sounds(mic)

inaudible mouth sounds(mic)

inaudible mouth sounds(mic)

exhale slowly into mic slowly

p

f

s. d.

The musical score is arranged in a system with six staves. The Flute staff (Fl.) begins with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. It contains notes with 'x' marks above them, indicating breath marks, and a long slur across the first two measures. The Bass Clarinet staff (B. Cl.) has a bass clef and contains notes with 'x' marks and a long slur. The Soprano Saxophone staff (Sop. Sax.) also has a treble clef and 7/8 time signature, with notes and 'x' marks. The Percussion staff (Perc.) starts with a box labeled 's. d.' and contains a long slur over the first two measures. The Piano staff (Pno.) has a grand staff with a treble clef and a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. It includes the instruction 'exhale slowly into mic slowly' and contains notes with a long slur. The Double Bass staff (Db.) has a bass clef and contains rests. The score is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines. The second measure contains the instruction 'inaudible mouth sounds(mic)'. The third measure contains a long slur. The fourth measure contains a long slur and a fortissimo (*f*) dynamic marking. The title 'mic brushing' is centered above the first measure.

70 'silence'

Fl. breath sound only

B. Cl. breath sound only

Sop. Sax. breath sound only

Perc. irregular s. d. extremely slowly across the head

Pno. 7th partial slowly bow tailpiece

Db. *pp*

Detailed description of the musical score for measures 70-74:

- Flute (Fl.):** Measures 70-71 are silent. In measure 72, a breath sound effect (marked 's') is indicated. Measures 73-74 are silent.
- Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.):** Measures 70-71 are silent. In measure 72, a breath sound effect (marked 's') is indicated. In measure 74, a *ppp* dynamic is marked with a hairpin.
- Soprano Saxophone (Sop. Sax.):** Measures 70-71 are silent. In measure 72, a breath sound effect (marked 's') is indicated. Measures 73-74 are silent.
- Percussion (Perc.):** Features irregular sounds (s.d.) in measures 70-71. In measure 72, there is a *ppp* dynamic. In measure 73, there is a *ppp* dynamic. In measure 74, there is a *ppp* dynamic and the instruction 'extremely slowly across the head'.
- Piano (Pno.):** Measures 70-71 are silent. In measure 72, a *pp* dynamic is marked. The instruction '7th partial' is written above the notes. In measure 73, the instruction 'slowly bow tailpiece' is written below the notes. Measures 74 is silent.
- Double Bass (Db.):** Measures 70-71 are silent. In measure 72, a *pp* dynamic is marked. Measures 73-74 are silent.

'mic brushing'

76

F1. *pp* into head joint T T 5^T K K *p* *mf*

B. Cl. *p* *mf*

Sop. Sax. into mouthpiece (mouth shape) PE 5 PU PU *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

Perc. **b. d.** *ppp* mute on s. d. **s. d.** extremely muted with towel *pp*

Pno. 5th partial *pp* 15^{mb} granular overpressure (no pitch) *pp*

Db. *pp*

80 inaudibly speak the note names as you finger them in time

Fl.

B. Cl.

Sop. Sax.

Perc.

Pno.

Db.

ppp

pp

p > *pp*

ppp

p

p

pp

breath sound only

timb. trill

m. bowl
s. d.
w/finger

b. d.
irregular

muted

col legno, jete

gliss.

85

inaudible mouth sounds (mic)

F1.

B. Cl.

Sop. Sax.

Perc.

Pno.

tap keys with wooden object

inaudible mouth sounds (mic)

f'

ppp

pp

mp

mp

ppp

8^{vb}

mst → msp

Mvt. II – Super Saiyan

One member of the ensemble volunteers or is selected to perform this movement as a solo.

Instructions for the solo performer:

- Read this text. Memorize this text if you would like.
- In the performance, read out loud or recite from memory this text.
- Go Super Saiyan on your instrument. Stop when you feel like you have gone Super Saiyan for an sufficient amount of time that everyone around could not possibly doubt that you just, in fact, went Super Saiyan.

"Um, what's up youtube? Um, this is something that's been in my heart for a long time, you know. All I've ever wanted to be in life is a Super Saiyan. Ever since I was a little kid I used to look up to Goku and Regita, Gohan. I used to look at them and wonder like, "How come I'm just a human being, you know? I'm so worthless." Oh, what can I do? I can run. I can jump. I can flip. But it's like we are so limited as human beings and just feel like when I see superheroes, you know why can we be that exciting and that awesome? Like why can't I wake up and if I'm late for school and just teleport there and be on time? But I feel like, you know, during that time of meditation and just thinking about it I realized something; All of that is possible and more. It's all in here. It's all in your mind. Think about anything that you ever tried to do. You thought to yourself, "Man, I could never do that". But when you practice it, guess what? You got better at it and you actually achieved it, didn't you? It's the same thing when you look at super powers. Of course it sounds absurd when you first look at it, but if you try it, you know, if you actually set your mind to it and believe. you can achieve it. I saw a Chinese man set a piece of paper on fire with the power of his hands. Now you're going to tell me that that was fake? No it wasn't fake! He channeled that energy from within and he believed and he channeled that energy from the creation of his mind, of what his mind believed, and what he spoke into existence of the power that he had. You understand what I'm saying?! I feel like anything that you set your mind to, your mind can create that force because your mind is just this powerful machine. That, you know, whatever you set it to and you believe and you work towards achieving it, you can do it. You can do it and I believe that I can be a Super Saiyan so this is my first time exposing this side of me to the world and I know a lot of ya'll are laughing, but people that really, you know, are on my level on intellect, they understand what I'm saying, you know, and thank ya'll for understanding and, you know, I'm going to attempt to go Super Saiyan on film and I'm going to upload it to youtube. This is my first attempt and I'm believing and I'm gonna create that energy and channel it through my mind. Now I might not turn full Super Saiyan, I might turn full Super Saiyan or you might just see a glimpse of it of that power. But, you know, this is my first attempt. I'm gonna turn the music on. Super Saiyan 3: Goku Theme. This is it, alright? Alright."

mvt. 3 - PRANCERCISE

Owen Davis

♩ = 60 "Prancercise" cold, non-expressive

17"

The score is for a 4/4 piece in 4/4 time. It features six staves: Flute, Bass Clarinet in Bb, Soprano Saxophone, Percussion, Piano, and Double Bass. The Flute and Bass Clarinet parts consist of eighth-note triplets with a dynamic of *mp*. The Soprano Saxophone part features quarter-note quintuplets with a dynamic of *mp*. The Percussion part includes a bass drum beat (*f*), a snare drum with hihat (*mf*), and a wooden bowl with sticks (*mf*). The Piano part has a bass line with quarter-note quintuplets and a dynamic of *f sempre*. The Double Bass part has a bass line with quarter-note quintuplets and a dynamic of *f*.

Flute

Bass Clarinet in Bb

Soprano Saxophone

Percussion

Piano

Double Bass

mp

mp

mp

w/ b. d. beater

f

mf

mf

f sempre

h. h. w/ sticks

wooden bowl w/ sticks

8

Fl.

B. Cl.

Sop. Sax.

Perc.

Pno.

Db.

6"

sim

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a jazz ensemble. It features six staves: Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Soprano Saxophone (Sop. Sax.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), and Double Bass (Db.). The music is in 4/4 time. The Flute part starts with a measure marked '8' and contains a triplet of eighth notes with a flat and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Bass Clarinet part has a triplet of eighth notes with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Soprano Saxophone part has a triplet of eighth notes with a dynamic marking of *f*. The Percussion part has a triplet of eighth notes with a dynamic marking of *sim*. The Piano part has a triplet of eighth notes with a dynamic marking of *f*. The Double Bass part has a triplet of eighth notes with a dynamic marking of *f*. A bracket labeled '6"' spans the last six measures of the score. The score ends with a double bar line and a 4/4 time signature.

"Trott"

16

Fl. *jet whistle* *key click*
ff *mp* *ff* *sim*

B. Cl. *molto staccato*
mf *f* *sim* *sim*

Sop. Sax. *ton. slap*
f *mf* *mf* *sim* *mf* *mf*

Perc. *w/ sticks*
mf

Pno. *mf* *p* *sim* *sim*

Db. *col legno sempre*
mf *f* *sim* *sim*

20

Fl. *ff* *sim*

B. Cl.

Sop. Sax. *mf* *mf*

Perc.

Pno.

Db.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 20 through 23. The Flute part begins in measure 20 with a dynamic of *ff* and a *sim* (sustained) marking, playing a melodic line with eighth notes. The Bass Clarinet part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a dynamic of *mf*. The Soprano Saxophone part has a melodic line with a dynamic of *mf*. The Percussion part provides a rhythmic accompaniment with triplet patterns. The Piano part has a sparse accompaniment with a dynamic of *mf*. The Double Bass part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a dynamic of *mf*. The score is written in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature.

24

Fl. *ff*

B. Cl. *5*

Sop. Sax. *mf*

Perc. *3*

Pno.

Db. *5*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score, page 5, starting at measure 24. The score is for a woodwind and percussion ensemble. The Flute (Fl.) part is in the top staff, playing a melodic line with accents and a forte (*ff*) dynamic. The Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.) part is in the second staff, playing a bass line with a quintuplet (*5*). The Soprano Saxophone (Sop. Sax.) part is in the third staff, playing a melodic line with triplets (*3*) and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Percussion (Perc.) part is in the fourth staff, playing a rhythmic pattern with triplets (*3*). The Piano (Pno.) part is in the fifth staff, playing a simple accompaniment. The Double Bass (Db.) part is in the bottom staff, playing a bass line with quintuplets (*5*). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

"Gallop" legato sempre

31

Fl. *mf* *f* *sim*

B. Cl. *mf* *f* *sim*

Sop. Sax. *mf* *f* *sim*

Perc. **metal bowl**
w/ yarn l. v. sempre *mf* *f* *sim* *bow cym*

Pno. *mf* *sim*

Db. *mf* *f* *sim*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 7, is for a piece titled "Gallop" which is to be played legato sempre. The score is in 4/4 time and spans seven measures. The instruments and their parts are: Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Soprano Saxophone (Sop. Sax.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), and Double Bass (Db.). The Flute, Bass Clarinet, and Soprano Saxophone parts feature melodic lines with five-note slurs and dynamic markings of mezzo-forte (mf), forte (f), and fortissimo (sim). The Percussion part uses a metal bowl with yarn, played legato, with dynamic markings of mf, f, and sim, and includes a section marked "bow cym". The Piano part consists of triplet figures in the right hand, starting with mf and moving to sim. The Double Bass part features a steady bass line with triplet figures, starting with mf and moving to f and sim.

46 "Shadow Box" *tongue ram*

The score is for a piece titled "Shadow Box" starting at measure 46. It features six staves: Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Soprano Saxophone (Sop. Sax.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), and Double Bass (Db.).

- Flute (Fl.):** Plays a melodic line with triplets. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, *mp*, and *sim.* A *tongue ram* instruction is present.
- Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.):** Plays a rhythmic line with triplets. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, and *mf*.
- Soprano Saxophone (Sop. Sax.):** Plays a melodic line with quintuplets. Dynamics include *p*, *f*, and *mf*.
- Percussion (Perc.):** Features a rhythmic pattern with dynamics *p*, *mf*, *mf*, *f*, and *sim.*
- Piano (Pno.):** Features a melodic line with quintuplets. Dynamics include *mf* and *p*.
- Double Bass (Db.):** Features a rhythmic line with dynamics *mf* and *f*. Includes instructions *slap body* and *snap pizz.*

49

Fl.

B. Cl.

Sop. Sax.

Perc.

Pno.

Db.

p

6

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 49 and 50. The Flute (Fl.) and Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.) parts feature eighth-note triplets in both measures. The Soprano Saxophone (Sop. Sax.) part has a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a quintuplet in measure 49. The Percussion (Perc.) part has a simple rhythmic pattern with two accents. The Piano (Pno.) part has a complex texture with quintuplets and a double flat (bb) in measure 49. The Double Bass (Db.) part has a simple bass line starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a '6' marking below the first note in measure 49.

51

Fl.

B. Cl.

Sop. Sax.

Perc.

Pno.

Db.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains measures 51, 52, and 53. The Flute (Fl.) part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with triplet markings. The Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.) part mirrors this pattern with eighth notes and triplet markings. The Soprano Saxophone (Sop. Sax.) part has a melodic line with quintuplet markings. The Percussion (Perc.) part consists of a simple rhythmic accompaniment. The Piano (Pno.) part has a melodic line with quintuplet markings. The Double Bass (Db.) part has a melodic line with quintuplet markings. The score is written in a common time signature and includes various musical notations such as stems, beams, and articulation marks.

54

Fl.

B. Cl.

Sop. Sax.

Perc.

Pno.

Db.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 54, 55, and 56. The score is arranged for six instruments: Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Soprano Saxophone (Sop. Sax.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), and Double Bass (Db.).
- **Flute (Fl.):** Measures 54 and 55 feature eighth-note triplets. Measure 56 has a whole rest followed by eighth-note triplets.
- **Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.):** Measures 54 and 55 feature eighth-note triplets. Measure 56 has eighth-note triplets.
- **Soprano Saxophone (Sop. Sax.):** Measures 54 and 55 feature eighth-note quintuplets. Measure 56 has eighth-note quintuplets.
- **Percussion (Perc.):** Measures 54 and 55 have whole rests. Measure 56 has a half note followed by a quarter note.
- **Piano (Pno.):** Measures 54 and 55 have whole rests. Measure 56 has a half note in the right hand and eighth-note quintuplets in the left hand.
- **Double Bass (Db.):** Measures 54 and 55 have whole rests. Measure 56 has a half note followed by a quarter note.

57

Fl.

B. Cl.

Sop. Sax.

Perc.

Pno.

Db.

15"

L. v.