

i have heard a wonderful thing

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preface


This work uses notated music alongside words in the hope that we might consider the two as one. The work is mostly intended to be read silently and privately as poetry typically is, mentally realizing notated sounds. It could also be read beside a piano, playing musical lines as they are encountered. Lastly, it could be read completely aloud, either privately or publicly in a performance setting. All musical material has been written with a piano's sound in mind and should be easily within the scope of most amateur pianists, but it would sound just fine on other instruments too.

The musical notation is written entirely without meter. Space relates loosely to time. The presence of a staff indicates that a noise is being sounded or sustained while the absence of one indicates silence. Dynamics are left to interpretation. The end of each poem is marked by a set of double horizontal lines at the bottom of the page.


If the boundary between two things can be blurred, however slightly, it follows that they are not different things at all – rather, they represent distinct points along a spectrum of possibilities. Sounds and words. Events and objects. Action and inaction. Me and you.

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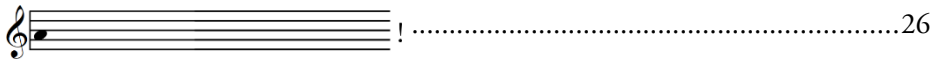
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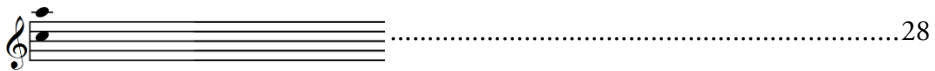


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!26

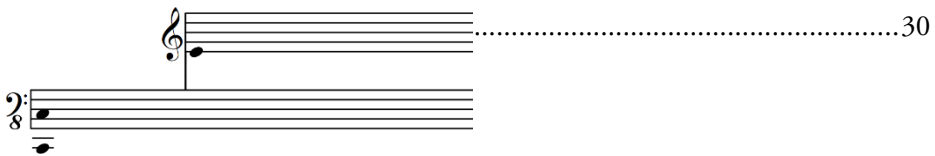
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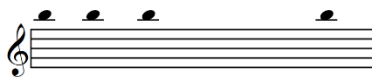
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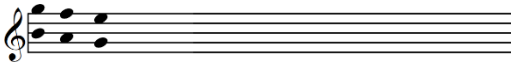
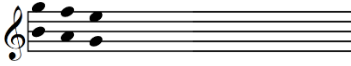
pinecone trying to count – squinting –114



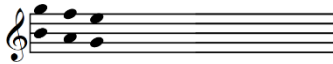
.....115

over crystalline pinks, wildly.....116





thought trapped in a soap bubble along the breeze
foam stirring colder – swirling colors beginning to slow
bubbles frozen into holiday ornaments
hooks rubbing against styrofoam

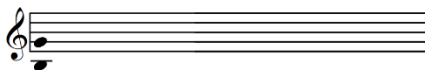
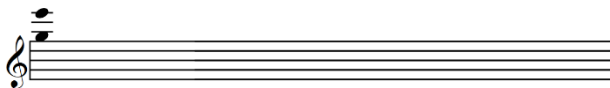


far-off tree rustling, heavy winds soon
pinecone anxious to hear the watersong –
words and colors and possibilities

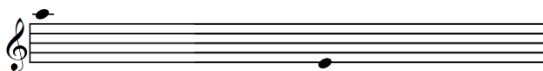
and what did the window say?
bursting with enthusiasm,

i have heard a wonderful thing

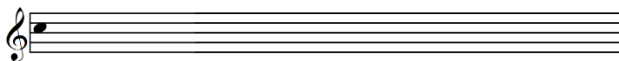




distant airplane
wind through trees



again, again
traffic miles away



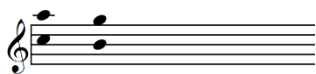
tearing along the dotted line
coupons? notebook? coatrack?
nailpolish and colored pencils
blue pen

how to stack chairs: one at a time
the next stop is Harlem – 125th St.
notebooks and coupons and staff paper

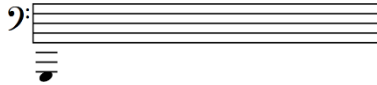
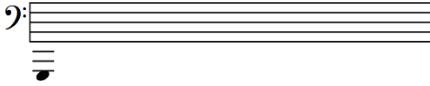
skyline windows and scaffolding
red lights and cartruck horns over through
down down around left underneath toward

quickrush and slowing colors
pausingly and stoppingly –

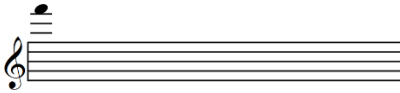




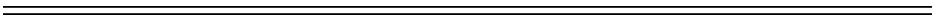
book after drying after rains
warped binding and rigid paper
inks all over the page



clockwatching things upset about the there
pinecones colliding and breaking apart
sap sticking to during



batteries all the wrong size – out of charge anyway



toward except pinecone under here there through around –
pausing a moment – always pausing and sipping tea
tying shoelaces, standing up and sitting down again

eyeblick droplets showering the lake face
mirror quietly shattering among

deep there following alone, drifting without gravity
clean papersheet (never empty), perforated edges

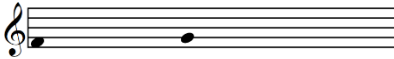
shoeknot tighter





houset lamp in the sun
lightbulb burning out
resting pause again until.
melted remaining, waiting

water dripping from a book
sheets delicate, confused.
credit cards and checkbooks

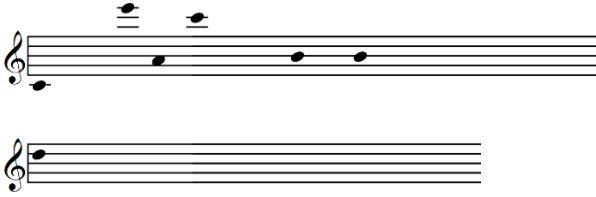


where are the things now?
lost in a corn maze or city streets
following the crosswalks as they turn green

little birds above tracing smiles and laughlines
tunes humming people along each hedge
low grasses reaching through the gravel

three things (missing one) etching lines in the dirt
murmuring watchticks away, here –



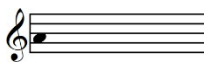


ceramic plate

scattered toastcrumbs and pepperflakes
eggolk drying, impossible to clean off after long
waiting anyway, watching the steam

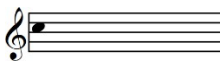


across, anchor evaporating
timing off during until of



sail mixing with the waters – thinking, thinking

lightbulb wax dripping
fork bending in the heat



stale bread and pondwater

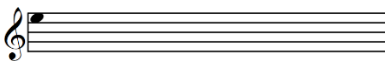
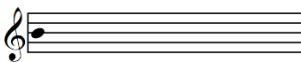
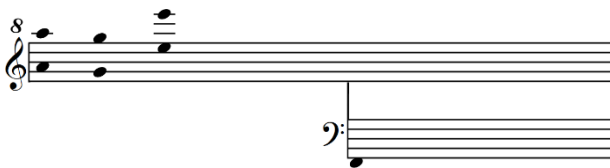
rainwet trashcan
steam – dancing



across fingerprints through for upward
all around aimlessly dustfloating along away below there
now vibrating, breathing

nine dollars





through! yes, through the inkdots!
jokes dancing around words and cadences
dirtied paper welcoming –

pinecone's smile peeking through a mask of professionalism
some inside joke with the fingerprints on the glass,
forgetfulness?

laughter blushing,

*no more need for those angry tears,
we're well past that time of mistakes, can't you see?*



five things, alone
raindrop floating
blinking computer screen
eyes closed – far, far

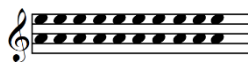


lines all over the page!
some jagged others straight, curling and spinning, bending and cracking;
lines falling, bouncing, clinging, climbing, laughing, smiling, singing!
lines forming triangles and squares and circles and ladders, houses and trees and
tireswings and notebooks, letters and words and clefs and staves and notes and ties and
staccato dots and thoughts and questions and songs and tears and mirrors and
television screens and television screens and television screens and mirrors and mirrors
and mirrors and television screens and lines and crackling lines and mirrors and
inflatable bouncing castles and chessboards and cabbage and pinecones and staplers
and milk crates and pancakes and thumbs and clay pots and mirrors and mirrors and
smiles and smiles and mirrors and mirrors and smiles and mirrors and smiles and
mirrors and mirrors and mirrors and mirrors and smiles and smiles and mirrors and
smiles and houses and inkdots

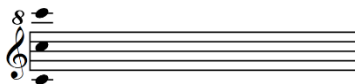
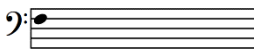
here, here the things resting

the moth sipping up pondwater
collided mirrors remaining along
– drying off

now during after as waiting, pause
etching lines in the wax



postage stamp
scissorblade
fire escape



seven inks and three more keys
every language for a single word

pagefibers melting with pens
broken switches
flickering houselights –

gusting windsong around!
toward away from here against
hurling where never before of here!
no straightlines speaking – only treehymns –
words and words, away

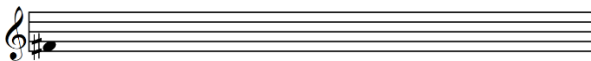
the evergreen,

*grandfather clocks try to keep the time
but time never ticked like they do.*

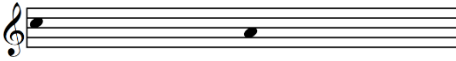
darkened eraser falling into a page
paper canyon yawning

dirtied napkin left on a plate,
winkled and scattered with crumbs
attention slipping
reasons forgotten

ice cube – greenly



close to beside the watercliff
no more windsong here or there
beneath until before above

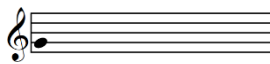
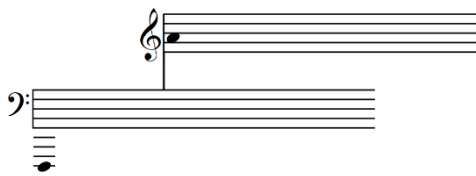


checkerboard
gravel underfoot
thick rubber boot

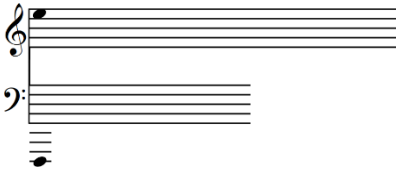
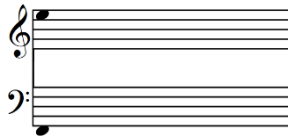
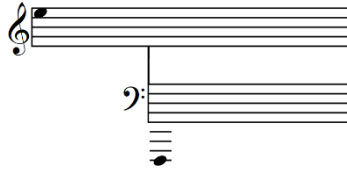
no way out but up,
up against the calmly –
but who said *go*? (rippling

aimlessly here along the staircase,
slinky falling not up or down, but left)





fanblades blurring wind from behind
– harmonies



exhausted.

chocolate chip behind the fence
telephone blinking through under the outer left
alphabetical index
business envelope

city lights
windchimes
airplanes shimmering under



twice things gone
drifting, drifting to sleep

cracked watchface
handwrinkles



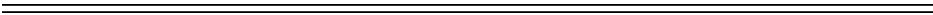
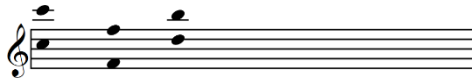
A grand staff consisting of a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef staff contains a sequence of notes: a whole note chord of G4 and A4, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, and a whole note D4. The bass clef staff contains a whole note chord of D3 and E3.

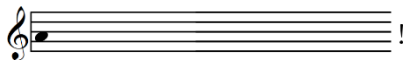
A grand staff consisting of a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef staff contains a whole note chord of G4 and A4. The bass clef staff contains a whole note chord of D3 and E3.

A single treble clef staff containing a whole note chord of G4 and A4.

A single treble clef staff containing a sequence of notes: a whole note chord of G4 and A4, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, and a whole note D4.

A single treble clef staff containing a sequence of whole note chords: G4 and A4, followed by F4 and E4, and finally D4.

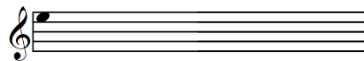




busfare
dragonfly

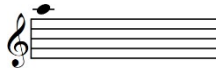
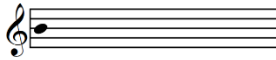


textbook



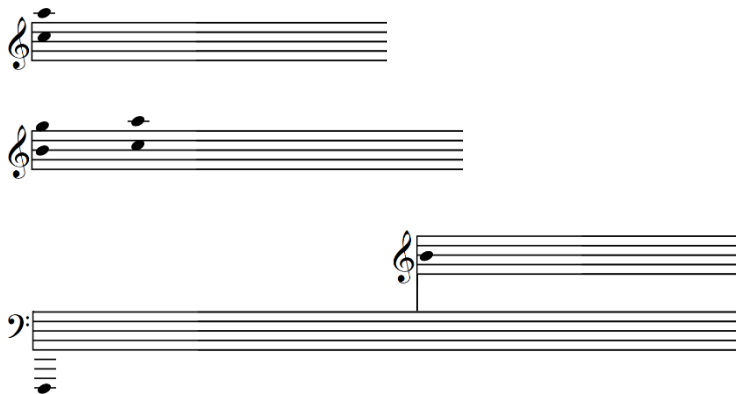
shattered mirror – why?
reflections blinking anyway beyond inside below
opposite over past as for out from there
except for such as *we* among blinking, blinking selfs

shaving razor, apple tree
fresh muddy carrot



down, down gradually among
before the moment, never within





returned to notebook alone
beaming print and desk
impulsed veins crackling

dirty snow
breathing

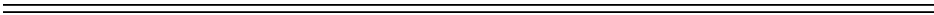




three things twice
none opening doorhinges



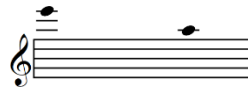
which way through the against?
coffee table





steam from a mug
water drifting away

tape patching holes and catching dust
bags of change always heavier than expected



between opinions, not caring to decide who.
choosing arbitrary places – dining room, hospital bed

aside from around, where?

cold

sheet of ovenfresh brownies not yet cut
no knife, only kitchen scissors
stack of small plates on the table
metal forks

helicopter below the clouds
motor confusing the dogs



the wing,

*the most important questions have no answers
because the most important questions are them.*

the chisel,

but why?



storybook spreading open
blue pen smudging toward

poster thumbtack
moldy showercurtain
chipped paint drywall

chisel and dust – again



two things warmly spinning
bird nest hidden

flicker

we realize and move forward





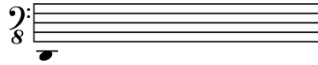
quickly

beside



until

toward away



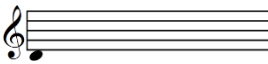
along
sweet

under

silently

among until
out around to out

against



according
to

at with from
ahead darkly

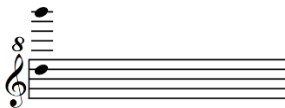
we



carelessly



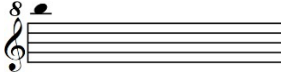
there



upward

heavily
carefully

simple
clear



from instantly

at
around



through

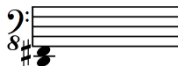
past

around strangely

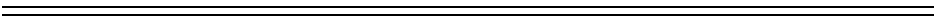
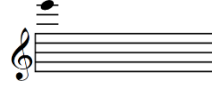
straightly greenly where wildly dottingly around

rough
cool

soft



over

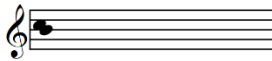




answered questions
pausing



pausing



a different color on each brushside
no paint from after over between there
how many things, again?

fifty six?

seven?

four or six in the frame

smallboat at the edge of the earth
scribbles in the margins

rows and rows of smashed grandfather clocks
scattered crystal and gears

papers wrinkling under watercolors
drying thicker than before

leather pocketbook
smallboat at the edge of the earth
watercliff yawning,

yawning

walking toward away through here from gently slowing
 the wing looking bluey sparkling
 which empty door's hinges?
 rooms, rooms and chisels
 empty rooms alongside the filled ones:
 full of pinecones, filled with winds,
 doorframe! painted! (who knows!)

getting there – again
 ticking redly (colors blended)
 teabags and airports
 refrigerators and ashtrays, not mentioning ash
 songs weighing down bookshelves
 library giantly pausing

three times, three times no things
 papers sagging under waters –
 only so much sap in one tree
 power button made of plastic,
 daffodils?
 along all the for now toward nowhere
 twice the here through outside along
 meanwhile during now then before here
 across all three or four or again or not,
 against the doorframes and sagging rooms
 chisels out of ink, finally,
 no more need for confusion, only laughter now –
 wires powering a lamplight – broken switch
 where how going around copper

tinfoil crumpling into balls

stoppingly thinking, considering toward for here
 asked how? minute hand distracted endlessly
 where here there no against?
 to dryerase boards and felt erasers
 hands and markers and colorsmudges
 always squeaking bluely – no matter the pictures –

tercets spinning, crackling at the edges
 remind, which where to again?
 the envelope glue melting away, typing at the keyboard
 wondering about the next dot

trashbags and cellphone chargers,
 bluely away for now again thinging
 daydreams during the night and greenish,
 words and caterpillars and questions for nowhere
 still singing stories,
 accidents underlining sentences or melodies –
 even more commonly – harmonies,
 dissonant songwords and colors
 carpets and speedbumps
 streetsigns and stuffed animals
 shelves, shelves and shelves of books.
 whispering between stacks and restrooms –
 canned vegetables to the left, coffee and teas below,
 credit cards, again?

flowing around – streams always going every way
 floor polishing machine
 tinny music on the p.a.
 bloodvein pumping pausingly
 calendars with too many advertisements and not enough paint
 august humming recycling bins, november counting bricks
 stories still drawing without lines
 dinner menus without water or cookies
 the glue holding it all together still dripping –
 string and ropes? magnets?

magnets holding a bridge together –
 tiny buses and trucks through the underpass
 buses filled with rooms and songs, trucks filled with buses
 carpet muffling the footsteps, trusting the magnets

things walking inkly, lines laughing

knockingsong – dancing!
 then here to now and through frames,
 subway train screeching, underpass bridge road before
 twice – why? not enough letters and shapes to dance to,
 rather needing throughs and wheres, withs and alongs,
 arounds and unders and joggingly and spinning and bubblingly
 and throughingly and swimming and icecubes and
 eyeglasses and mirrors and smiles! mirrors and smiles!
 and smiles and faces and ticklish spots and faces

and apartment complexes and rusted gates and sidewalks and
stormdrains and bathtowels and cellphones and words and things
and things and somethings and things and words and things and things!

so, so many things.

the new song – no more selfcages

toward the with
here along through over under
beside toward, never against
through around above after
during before another drywall
pages, pages and rooms of now

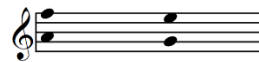
rooms, rooms and pages of now,

*do you remember that we're past that time
of clockwatching?*





back side of a canvas
specks of color bleeding through



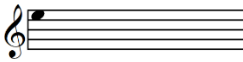
handful of pennies and nickels
heavier than expected
metallic smell

walking through a library aisle
footsteps muffled by carpet

remnants of a sticker on a shop window
mostly scratched away

check for october rent

plywood two-by-four
sawdust catching sunlight



fresh mulch
darker color
bitter smell

composting pile of grass

foot thumps from the ceiling

broken chair
wobbling left and
right

dandelion feather drifting with the air
wind too slight to feel

bright yellow box of cereal
weight all at the bottom
bag crumpled up inside

tying an overfull trash bag
holding breath



stack of unread books
wooden nightstand
lampshade

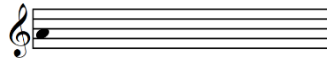
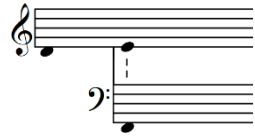
speaking into a running fan
laughing

showerwater through hair at an angle
not quite warm

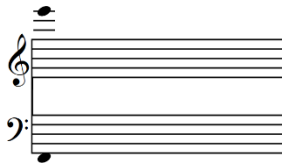
airplane ceiling
aisle lights

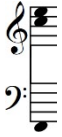
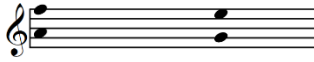


hardwood floorboards
light creak

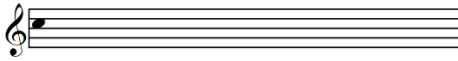


telephone pole
wires clipped
damp wood





t.v. lighting the room at midnight
leaning over the couch's cushioned armrest
thick quilted blanket

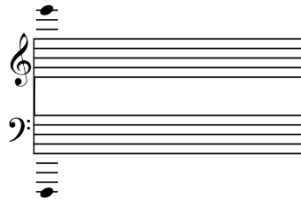


stapling a thick stack of paper

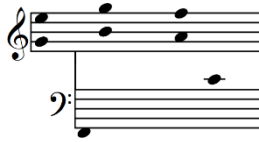
yellow hydraulic piston
whining motor
steam hissing



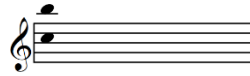
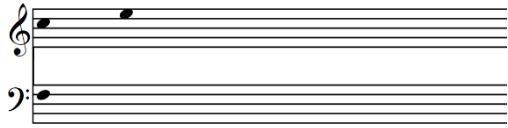
sunlight glare
bushes rustling



seven cards stacked into a triangle
bottom feet balancing against the carpet



lying in bed
late morning sunlight
hungry



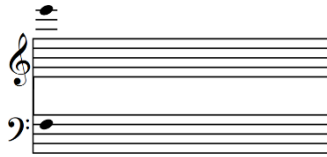
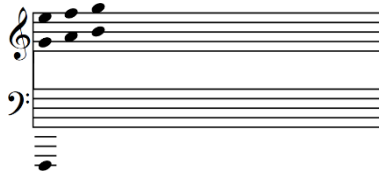
deflated foil balloon
bright greens and
blues

popcorn piece stuck between teeth

tongue pushing around

footsteps out of synch
shoes scuffing against the road
pebbles kicked

blue spruce
snapped limb
golf course



turning a car radio dial
little clicks

tiny blue paper crane
thermostat box

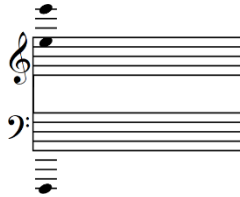


broken knuckleskin
dry winter air



faded teddy bear slumped forward
black plastic eye loose

fire beginning to crackle
twigs balanced in a teepee
thicker sticks around



floor of a subway car
scratches and grime catching the light

fluorescent light just switched on
flickering

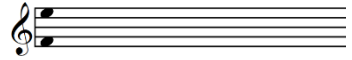
external hard drive whirring
blinking green light

broken wooden drawer
old pens and scrap papers
batteries and highlighters
glass marbles rolling



mechanical mouse swiping across desk
plastic shell clicks

playground slide hot in the sunlight
wooden mulch



two triple-a batteries
out of charge

unpainted toy wooden blocks
dark green bin

blackboard chalk streaks
classroom desks and chairs

plastic foothold
rock climbing wall
two-color ropes dangling left and right

grimy kitchen sink

lightswitch

unknown
connection

empty water bottle in a bush
specks of dirt and dew drops
blue cap missing

pan of hot olive oil
dropping vegetables
oil spitting

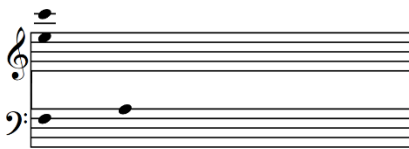
wrinkled petition sheet
seventy names
different inks

cold milk carton in a plastic bag

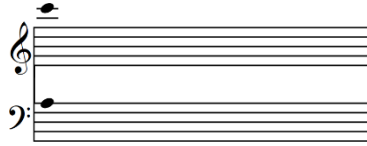
condensation clinging

movie theater chair
seat bottom pushing up
lights dimming

home printer
whirring noises
paper jam

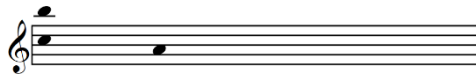


clothes fresh from a dryer
still warm



wrinkled newspaper
black and white baseball photo
slippers shuffling in the other room

fireworks in the distance
flashes hidden by clouds

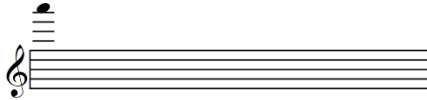


spoon of oatmeal
brown sugar
raisin lumps

white price tag
racked t-shirt

restaurant menu
tiny font

framed broadway poster tucked in the corner
trashbags full of junk
cardboard boxes



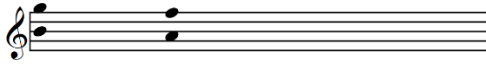
bottle of hand moisturizer

morning's first taste of coffee
mellow scent
warmth

small pot of boiling water
block of ramen noodles

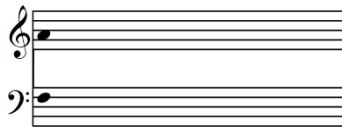


phone ringing
two seconds between tones
light static sound



bubble wrap pop
half the sheet left

three-hole puncher
eight sheets of paper



subway turnstile beeping

mannequins wearing summer clothes
short shorts and blue tanktops

stained cutting board
chopped green peppers
onion peels

cluttered wooden desk
books stacked unevenly

distant thunder roll

storm clouds forming

airconditioned grocery store
rattling metal shopping cart
tinny music overhead
egg cartons behind glass

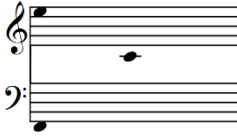
clear roll of tape



lowering a passenger seat window

plastic ballpoint pen
blue ink smearing

lifting a pinecone off the grass
lighter than expected
sap sticking to thumb



tightening a leather belt
squeezing on stomach

faculty office door
newspaper comicstrip

booksale outside a library
each book one dollar

caterpillar-shaped bench in a zoo
butterfly exhibit

red scissors
dulled blades
packing tape

opening a bag of animal crackers
faint sweet smell

concrete staircase

grey-white walls
footsteps echoing

public restroom
damp floor
mosquitos

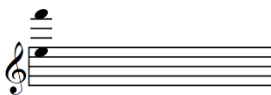
leather shoe clunking on the pavement
thick rubber sole dragging

lying flat on crabgrass
breeze rustling
ear tickling



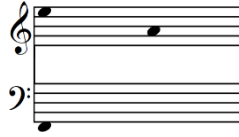
burned out lightbulb
sun reflected in dark glass

glass bowl
jellybeans clinking around
hand fishing for pink



round leaf on the pavement
signs of brown rot
holes made by caterpillars

orange peel under fingernails
cool juice drying
sticky citrus

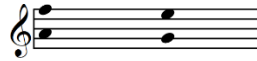


evening chill
raccoon outside in the trashcan
sound of a plastic bag ripping

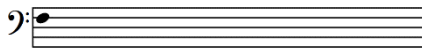
hardbody guitar case

bonfire remains smoldering
smokemell getting into cotton shirt

opening a waffle iron
cooking spray



treebranch tip bouncing
squirrel running along



little potted cactus
dry dirt in a clay
pot
windowsill

small plastic crate
flimsy edges wobbling

mixing thick pancake batter
wire whisk bending



suppose that we are all the same person

born into different bodies
and different lives
which make us think differently
speak differently
laugh differently

suppose that we came to see each person as ourself

in a different face
with a different smile

a version of ourself who loves different songs
notices different things
draws lines in different places
and can be happy

i am happy.

small book of nursery rhymes
purple and green cover
bookmark in page sixteen

old rug rolled up in the corner

fingertip lightly across the edge of a book
pages scratching

brown paper bag
turkey sandwich
lettuce and tomato
crackers

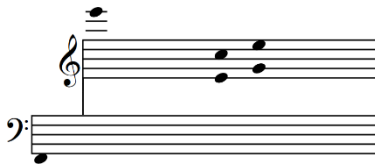
feather blanket
warm already

elevator going up

porcelain music box
tiny ballerina

famous painting
golden frame behind glass
cameras flashing

white painted drywall
tiny chip missing
revealing grey



placing glasses in an overfilled cabinet

pushing back
clinking

sipping from a drinking fountain
metallic water
refrigeration unit kicking on

running a damp washcloth across a dinner table
sticky spot resisting

steaming mug
lifting a teabag by its string
peppermint drops splashing

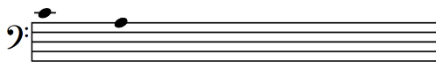
trail of ants
oakleaf

orange house cleaner bottle
adjustable nozzle



crouching over
tying left shoelace
pulling knot tight

car engine running outside
deep hum in chest



soft bed of pine needles



straightening posture
sitting upright

uncomfortable plastic chair
sitting with legs crossed

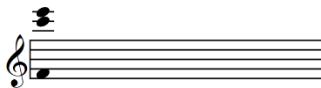
biting into an apple

wires running across the ceiling
plastic fasteners holding them in place



pulling a chair out
nosiy clamor

soft sweater
plain black socks
heat vent to the right
elastic cotton

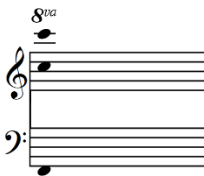


acrylic paint stuck to fingers



fingerprint on a water glass
sunlight from the window

squirting soap on a dish sponge
rubbing fingers to make suds



i am happy.

padded cubicle
stitched grey fabrics
thumbtack

pigeon on the sidewalk ruffling its feathers

thick paper sketchbook
brush following the paper grooves

glass pencil jar
ballpoint pens
mechanical pencils
paperclips and smudged lead

car door hot in the sun

pulling two bills out of a wallet
paying for lunch at a deli



heavy bag of brown sugar

indoor basketball court
skid marks on the floor

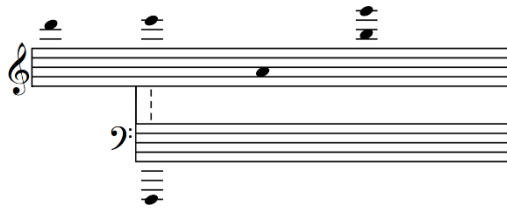
dried gum on the street

metal chair

bright yellow bird darting

winds outside against a tree
wood groaning

screw holding an outlet in place
white paint

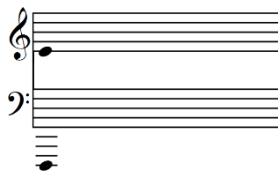


ceramic bowl
dried oatmeal

mild pain around wrist

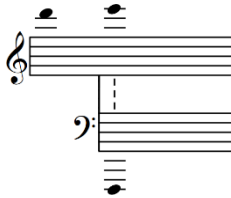
weak tremble

pulling open a freezer door
cold fog spilling out



drygrass blown on the road
leaf from last year

unopened can of black beans
generic label



phone chirping –
distracted from reading

thin stick of drawing charcoal rubbed onto fingers

leaning against a bus window
glass and metal sticking to skin

three pencils lying on a sketchbook

bulb of garlic
pressure cooker
heavy lid

bottom of a waffle cone

cookies and cream

small stack of napkins
top few wrinkled

six inch ruler
transparent plastic
centimeter marks on one side

clothes iron steaming
turning upright and setting down

peppermint toothpaste

singing from inside a church
incense drifting out the door
apple core on the sidewalk

sweeping dirt into a dust pan
little bit stuck at the edge

blowing eraser shavings off a notebook

rolling dice beside a board game

left leg falling asleep
tingling below knee

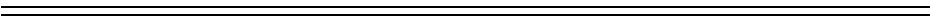
car tires rolling over gravel
light bouncing

line where the floortile changes



yellow colored crayon
wax smudged on fingers

smooth pebble sidewalk
chipped concrete



oh, where knows, anyway?
too few words to count the seconds
again, again, and once again (across toward)
under all these metal bridges connecting songs
songs connecting pinetrees and lines of bookshelves

how long a river? glitter as the train goes by,
sunglare catching the window scratches

half of every day spent forgetting –
no closer poetry than sleep song



away, away through along the here
around downward – too fast, too fast!

ruler inches ticking pencil shavings
graphite tip snapping

no toward, only here

paints caught under ruler –
never a clean papersheet,
too many inches

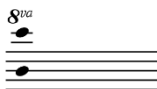


sand and pebbles sliding
 paints melting with mud

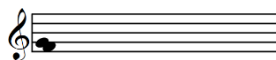
pinecone daydreaming –
 city lights and fireworks

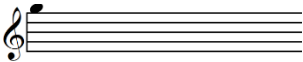
marching backward on the cliffside
 stick brushdragging

nothing more silent than rain when it's loudest



six things checking their watches
 hour hand never moving





pinecone trying to count – squinting –
emergency exit sign redglow
 chipped piano key
 nursery rhymes?

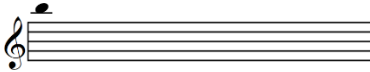
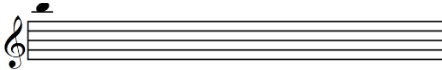
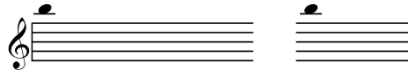
felt pincushion
sewing machine

frayed string against a needle eye
knitted sweater unraveling
no bootknots here



drinking fountain
cameras flashing

tight double knot
sunlight brushing against the lowgrass
warmth, warmth



over crystalline pinks, wildly.
ant and oakleaf memories jaded through
forgotten direction still over forward
worn edges along the paperside – dulled jewelcut
glints of mirror peeking through

and how the sun dances in the emerald!
spinning and laughing, leaping around,
grabbing every stray hand to join –
pinecones and caterpillars, chisels and lines
magnets and colors and bridges and bookshelves
each swaying along to the beatless chord
each wanting to stay a little while longer,

easier to be pink in the wind

now bookcovers melting,
smearing with the watersong

now oakleaf breathing feathers:
fly, fly along the edges
