

“As sure as time...

...history is repeating itself...

...and as sure as man is man...

...history is the last place he'll look for his lesson.”<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Harper Lee, *Go Set a Watchman* (London: William Heinemann, 2015)

By Sophie Stone

## Instructions:

This work is for spoken voices and can be performed on its own but is specifically written for a series of performances of the same work with different interpretations and performance situations.

It may be performed by a minimum of two people. Performer one must start followed by the other performers in no specific order or timing. Performer one must start with the first phrase and the other performers may choose any phrase to start with (all performers must not start with phrase I).

The duration of each section should be a minimum of 2 minutes but it is the individual performers that decide on the duration of each section and therefore the whole performance. All of the performers must end on the last section. The realisation of the work will be the result of multiple and simultaneous solo performances of different lengths. The performer/s have a guide of instructions<sup>2</sup> separated into three sections: *structure, vocal techniques/sound* and **movement**.

---

<sup>2</sup> These instructions are suggestions, therefore appropriate instructions for each section may be added or improvised.

Structure	<i>Vocal Techniques/Sound</i>	<b>Movement</b>
Repeat section (one or more times)	<i>Accent the beginning of each word</i>	<b>Walk around slowly whilst speaking (return to original position afterwards)</b>
Return to the beginning of the piece	<i>Speak abruptly</i>	
Return to the beginning of the section	<i>Crescendo</i>	<b>Move to the opposite side of the room and resume original position to end the section<sup>3</sup></b>
Repeat consonants or vowels (at varied tempi/rhythms)	<i>Diminuendo</i>	<b>Face the wall away from any listeners</b>
Extend the length of fricative consonants	<i>Exhale</i>	<b>No Movement</b>
Reverse the order of the words in the phrase	<i>Inhale</i>	
Repeat the previous two words (one or more times)	<i>Whisper</i>	
Repeat each word as an echo (one to several times)	<i>Shout</i>	
Accelerando/rallentando	<i>Tongue click (e.g. after a word for each no. of vowels)</i>	
Read the whole sentence with pauses of approx. 3 seconds between each section	<i>Clap/click/stamp</i>	
Be silent for a min. of 10 seconds	<i>Cheek slap</i>	
	<i>Mouth pop</i>	
	<i>Silence</i>	

<sup>3</sup> This is a trigger for interaction; when one performer moves to the opposite side of the room, the other performers must follow this instruction too.

# I. “As sure as time...”

Structure	<i>Vocal Techniques/Sound</i>	Movement
<p>Use at least 5 different structural elements from the following:</p> <p><u>Repeat section (one or more times)</u><sup>4</sup></p> <p>Return to the beginning of the piece</p> <p>Return to the beginning of the section</p> <p><u>Repeat consonants or vowels (at varied tempi/rhythms)</u></p> <p>Extend the length of fricative consonants</p> <p>Reverse the order of the words in the phrase</p> <p>Repeat the previous two words (one or more times)</p> <p>Repeat each word as an echo (one to several times)</p> <p>Accelerando/rallentando</p> <p><u>Be silent for a min. of 10 seconds</u></p>	<p>Use at least 3 different vocal techniques/sounds from the following:</p> <p><i>Accent the beginning of each word</i></p> <p><i>Speak abruptly</i></p> <p><u><i>Crescendo</i></u> or <u><i>Diminuendo</i></u></p> <p><i>Exhale</i></p> <p><i>Inhale</i></p> <p><u><i>Whisper</i></u> or <u><i>Shout</i></u></p> <p><i>Tongue click (e.g. after a word for each no. of vowels)</i></p> <p><i>Clap/click/stamp</i></p> <p><i>Cheek slap</i></p> <p><i>Mouth pop</i></p> <p><i>Silence</i></p>	<p><b>No movement</b></p> <p>If triggered:</p> <p><b>Move to the opposite side of the room and resume original position to end the section</b></p>

<sup>4</sup> Underlined instructions must be included.

## II. “... history is repeating itself...”

Structure	<i>Vocal Techniques/Sound</i>	Movement
<p>Use any structural elements from the following:</p> <p>Repeat section (one or more times)</p> <p>Return to the beginning of the piece</p> <p>Return to the beginning of the section</p> <p>Repeat consonants or vowels (at varied tempi/rhythms)</p> <p>Extend the length of fricative consonants</p> <p>Reverse the order of the words in the phrase</p> <p>Repeat the previous two words (one or more times)</p> <p>Repeat each word as an echo (one to several times)</p> <p>Accelerando/rallentando</p> <p><u>Be silent for a min. of 10 seconds<sup>5</sup></u></p>	<p>Use at least 6 different vocal techniques/sounds from the following:</p> <p><i>Accent the beginning of each word</i></p> <p><i>Speak abruptly</i></p> <p><i>Crescendo</i></p> <p><i>Diminuendo</i></p> <p><i>Exhale</i></p> <p><i>Inhale</i></p> <p><i>Whisper</i></p> <p><i>Shout</i></p> <p><i>Tongue click (e.g. after a word for each no. of vowels)</i></p> <p><i>Clap/click/stamp</i></p> <p><i>Silence</i></p>	<p><b>No movement</b></p> <p>If triggered:</p> <p><b>Move to the opposite side of the room and resume original position to end the section</b></p>

<sup>5</sup> Underlined instructions must be included.

### III. “... and as sure as man is man...”

Structure	<i>Vocal Techniques/Sound</i>	Movement
<p>Use any structural elements from the following:</p> <p>Repeat section (one or more times)</p> <p>Return to the beginning of the piece</p> <p>Return to the beginning of the section</p> <p>Repeat consonants or vowels (at varied tempi/rhythms)</p> <p>Extend the length of fricative consonants</p> <p>Reverse the order of the words in the phrase</p> <p>Repeat the previous two words (one or more times)</p> <p>Repeat each word as an echo (one to several times)</p> <p>Accelerando/rallentando</p> <p>Read the whole sentence with pauses of approx. 3 seconds between each section</p> <p>Be silent for a min. of 10 seconds</p>	<p>Use any vocal techniques/sounds from the following:</p> <p><i>Exhale</i></p> <p><i>Inhale</i></p> <p><i>Whisper</i></p> <p><i>Shout</i></p> <p><i>Tongue click (e.g. after a word for each no. of vowels)</i></p> <p><i>Clap/click/stamp</i></p> <p><i>Cheek slap</i></p> <p><i>Mouth pop</i></p> <p><i>Silence</i></p>	<p><b>No movement</b></p> <p>If triggered:</p> <p><b>Move to the opposite side of the room and resume original position to end the section</b></p>

## IV. "... history is the last place he'll look for his lesson."

Structure	<i>Vocal Techniques/Sound</i>	<b>Movement</b>
<p>Use at least 8 structural elements from the following:</p> <p>Repeat section (one or more times)</p> <p><u>Return to the beginning of the piece<sup>6</sup></u></p> <p>Return to the beginning of the section</p> <p>Repeat consonants or vowels (at varied tempi/rhythms)</p> <p>Extend the length of fricative consonants</p> <p>Reverse the order of the words in the phrase</p> <p>Repeat the previous two words (one or more times)</p> <p>Repeat each word as an echo (one to several times)</p> <p>Accelerando/rallentando</p> <p><u>Read the whole sentence with pauses of approx. 3 seconds between each section</u></p> <p><u>Be silent for a min. of 10 seconds</u></p>	<p>Use at least 4 different vocal techniques/sounds from the following:</p> <p><i>Accent the beginning of each word</i></p> <p><i>Speak abruptly</i></p> <p><i>Exhale</i></p> <p><i>Inhale</i></p> <p><i>Whisper</i></p> <p><i>Shout</i></p> <p><i>Tongue click (e.g. after a word for each no. of vowels)</i></p> <p><i>Clap/click/stamp</i></p> <p><i>Silence</i></p>	<p>Use any movements from the following:</p> <p><b>Walk around slowly whilst speaking (return to original position afterwards)</b></p> <p><b>Move to the opposite side of the room and resume original position to end the section<sup>7</sup></b></p> <p><b>Face the wall away from any listeners</b></p> <p><b>No Movement</b></p>

<sup>6</sup> Underlined instructions must be included.

<sup>7</sup> This is a trigger for interaction; when one performer moves to the opposite side of the room, the other performers must follow this instruction too.