

This is My Scary Robot Voice

for string quartet
2015

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Program Note

In *This is My Scary Robot Voice*, players “incant” the rhythms of a number of different sentences, as though speaking them aloud. These sentences are all personal mantras – things I tell myself as a small, soft-spoken woman, especially when I’m in a crowd or a group of strangers where often I tend to be very reserved. To overcome my shyness, I force myself to imagine that my voice is very loud and that I am very tall, so that everyone in the room can’t help but hear me and see me. This does help me stand taller and speak louder, but sometimes the results are rather unnatural-sounding; hence the “scary robot voice” that competes throughout this movement with the more pleasant sounds.

This is my normal voice

This is my scary robot voice

Everybody can hear me

I am a tower thousands of feet tall

Everybody can see me

Everybody for miles can see me

Everything is fine

I am fine

Performance Notes

Scordatura: Violin II string IV = F#3, Cello string IV = B1

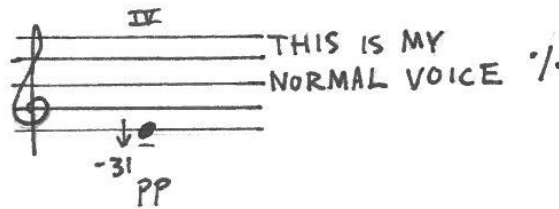
Incantation: Play each set of notes with the rhythm and emphasis of the associated sentence(s). Rhythm and inflection can be varied somewhat as the sentences repeat, just as you would do while speaking the same sentence over and over again. (“This is my normal voice. *This is my normal voice. This is my normal voice...*” etc.) In some instances, the articulation has been explicitly written (*legato*, *spiccato*, accent marks, bowings etc.) next to or above the text. These specific articulations should continue as long as that specific sentence is repeated.

Time: Horizontal space is roughly representative of time; more specific timespans are marked at the bottom of each page, between dashed lines. The dashed lines represent timepoints where at least one player (and usually more) begins a new pattern. Where a timepoint is marked “tutti” all players should not only coordinate the beginnings of their new patterns, but should also play in rhythmic unison, diverging gradually. Within timespans, individual musical events are usually not at specified times, but can be timed at each player’s discretion based on the location of the events on the page. Note that the length of time represented on each page varies somewhat; most pages are around 1 minute in length, but some are shorter or longer (45 seconds to 1:20 or so).

Staves and pitches: Most pitches are played in the context of incanting the text; however, sometimes the direction “sustain” is given, which indicates a long sustained sound with bowing as imperceptible as possible.

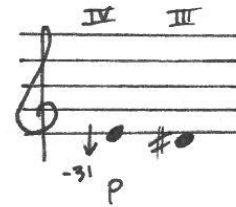
Microtones are typically approximations of partials above a fundamental that may or may not be sounding.

In some cases, the player may be asked to play multiple pitches as they incant the sentence, or may have the option to alternate pitches.




THIS IS MY
NORMAL VOICE


*Incant these words
on the given pitch.*




*Alternate between these
two (or more) pitches while
incanting the words.*





*Play both pitches
at the same time*



*Play primarily the first note, occasionally
changing to or adding the note(s) in parentheses.*

 *Repeat the
words
continuously.*

 *Repeat the words with a
short (.5 second) pause between
repetitions, as though breathing*

 *Incant the same words
as immediately before*

VLN 1 *3va*
 I *molto flautando*
 (sustain, bow freely)

pp

3"
 n

3va (slow gliss.) *loco con vib.* (IX only)
 THIS IS MY NORMAL VOICE

n pp f

no vib. sul tasto
 THIS IS MY NORMAL VOICE

mf p

VLN 2 *con sord.*

IV THIS IS MY NORMAL VOICE %

-31 pp

IV III THIS IS MY NORMAL SPEAKING VOICE %

-31 pp

IV III THIS IS MY NORMAL VOICE %

-31 p

III IV THIS IS MY NORMAL VOICE %
 (1/2" pause between reps)

-31 mf p

VLA *con sord.*

-31 III THIS IS MY NORMAL VOICE %

pp

III -31 THIS IS MY NORMAL VOICE %
 (gliss. between "THIS" → "NORMAL")

pp

-31 (#e) THIS IS MY NORMAL VOICE %

mp

poco sul pont. (#e) THIS IS MY NORMAL SPEAKING VOICE %
 (1/2" pause between reps)

mf p

CELLO

flautando sul tasto # THIS IS MY NORMAL VOICE %

pp

poco sul pont. # THIS IS MY NORMAL SPEAKING VOICE %
 PP < P (gliss. between "THIS" → "NORMAL")

pp p

ord. -31 # THIS IS MY NORMAL VOICE %

mp

15"

30"

15"

TUTTI (quickly diverge)

VLN I

(sul tasto)
 III
 IV THIS IS MY NORMAL VOICE
 (gliss. over several reps) PP

VLN 2

poco sul pont. vib. remove sord. 3"
 nov.vib. smooth bowing] →
 P

VLA

p.s.p.) faster bowing, become tremolo remove sord. 2"
 sustain →
 P THIS IS MY NORMAL VOICE
 mp PP

CELLO

sul tasto (gliss. over several reps)
 P THIS IS MY NORMAL VOICE
 mf P

15"

sul tasto
 THIS IS MY NORMAL SPEAKING VOICE
 P mf P

ord. P.S.P. 2"
 IV THIS IS MY NORMAL SPEAKING VOICE
 P mf P

ord. (gliss. over several reps)
 THIS IS MY NORMAL SPEAKING VOICE
 PP mf P

ord. IV THIS IS MY NORMAL SPEAKING VOICE
 PP mf P

10"

[play 4 times, quieter each time]
 ord. 5-6"
 2"
 3" (listen for cello)
 sffz (f) p sub. (uneven tremolo, unstable pitch)
 (mf) (P)

gliss. freely up and down harmonics
 IV THIS IS MY ORDINARY QUIET SPEAKING VOICE
 PP

(gliss. over several reps)
 THIS IS MY ORDINARY QUIET SPEAKING VOICE
 mf PP

5-6"
 2" III IV [echo VLN I 4 times, quieter each time]
 sffz (f) p sub. uneven tremolos, unstable pitches
 (mf) (P)

20"

20"

TUTTI -----> divergent

VLN I

sul pont. THIS IS MY SCARY
RO BOT VOICE %

VLN 2

sul pont. THIS IS MY SCARY
RO BOT VOICE %

VLA

sul pont. THIS IS MY SCARY
RO BOT VOICE %

CELLO

ord. THIS IS MY SCARY
RO BOT VOICE %

15"

-----> ord.

poco sul pont.

harm. gliss. over several reps -----> ord.

-----> sul pont, poco spiccato

30"

TUTTI (except VLN I)

con sord.

2"

7-10"

molto legato

EVERYBODY
CAN HEAR ME %

ord, poco spiccato

poco spiccato

molto legato

EVERYBODY
CAN HEAR ME %

sul pont, poco spiccato

molto legato

EVERYBODY
CAN HEAR ME %

20"

VLN 1 flaut. legato

EVERYBODY FOR MILES
CAN HEAR ME

~3" $\frac{3}{4}$

P \longrightarrow PP

VLN 2 con sord.

sul tasto, spiccato

THIS IS MY
NORMAL
VOICE

mf

VLA

poco sul pont.

EVERYBODY FOR MILES
CAN HEAR ME

P \longrightarrow PP

CELLO

ord.

EVERYBODY FOR
MILES CAN HEAR ME

P \longrightarrow PP

15"

THIS IS MY
ORDINARY QUIET
SPEAKING VOICE

PP

gliss.

repeat many times

P \longrightarrow F \longrightarrow PP

sul tasto \dashrightarrow sul pont.

THIS IS MY
ORDINARY QUIET
SPEAKING VOICE

p \longrightarrow f \longrightarrow PP

(remove sord.) ord.

THIS IS MY
ORDINARY QUIET
SPEAKING VOICE

PP \longrightarrow P

sul tasto \dashrightarrow sul pont.

THIS IS MY
NORMAL
VOICE

THIS IS MY
ORDINARY QUIET
SPEAKING VOICE

p \longrightarrow f \longrightarrow PP

ord.

THIS IS MY
ORDINARY QUIET
SPEAKING VOICE

PP \longrightarrow P

sul tasto

THIS IS MY
NORMAL
VOICE

THIS IS MY
ORDINARY QUIET
SPEAKING
VOICE

P \longrightarrow f \longrightarrow P

flaut. ord.

THIS IS MY
ORDINARY QUIET
SPEAKING
VOICE

PP

~2" (echo VLN 1, at first about 1" after, gradually catching up & overlapping)

P \longrightarrow F \longrightarrow PP

30"

20"

TUTTI -----> diverse

VLN I

poco vib, legato

THIS IS MY SCARY
RO BOT VOICE

sfz

sul pont., spiccato

THIS IS MY LOUD
SCARY ROBOT VOICE

mf < ff > mf
("LOUD")

----- accel. word speed -----

THIS IS MY LOUD
SCARY ROBOT VOICE

ff

words a tempo ord., legato

THIS IS MY LOUD
HIGH-PITCHED
TERRIFYING
ROBOT VOICE

fff

VLN 2

legato

THIS IS MY SCARY
RO BOT VOICE

sfz

sul pont., spiccato

THIS IS MY LOUD
SCARY ROBOT VOICE

mf < ff > mf
("LOUD")

----- accel. word speed -----

fff

words a tempo ord., legato

2"

THIS IS MY LOUD
HIGH-PITCHED
TERRIFYING
ROBOT VOICE

fff

abrupt

VLA

random very high pitches (squealing) freely

THIS IS MY LOUD
SCARY ROBOT VOICE

ff

gliss. high harmonics

gliss. high harmonics freely

THIS IS MY LOUD
SCARY ROBOT VOICE

f < ff > mf
("LOUD")

----- accel. word speed -----

THIS IS MY LOUD
SCARY ROBOT VOICE

f < ff > ff

7-10" abrupt

CELLO

random very high pitches (squealing)

THIS IS MY LOUD
SCARY ROBOT
VOICE

ff

sul pont., spiccato

THIS IS MY LOUD
SCARY ROBOT
VOICE

f < ff > mf
("LOUD")

----- accel. word speed -----

legato, gliss. higher each time

THIS IS MY LOUD
SCARY ROBOT
VOICE

f < ff > fff

7-10" abrupt

VLN 1

sul tasto
flaut.

EVERYBODY
CAN HEAR ME %

pp subito

I AM A TOWER.
I AM THOUSANDS
OF FEET TALL. %

pp

gliss.
over several
reps

poco vib. legato

I AM A TOWER
THOUSANDS OF
FEET TALL %

mf < f > mf

VLN 2

flaut.

EVERYBODY CAN
HEAR ME %

pp subito

flaut.

I AM A TOWER.
I AM THOUSANDS
OF FEET TALL. %

pp

accel. to tremolo

sustain tremolo

(while tremolo-ing)

I AM A TOWER
THOUSANDS
OF FEET TALL %

p

mf

(while trilling)

VLA

sul tasto
flaut.

EVERYBODY
CAN HEAR ME %

PPP

(gliss over
1 rep)

PP

(w/ CELLO)
ord.

I AM A
TOWER. I AM
THOUSANDS
OF FEET TALL. %

p

I AM A TOWER
THOUSANDS OF
FEET TALL. %

mf < f > mf

CELLO

sul pont.
flaut.

sustain

IV

sustain

PPP

(w/ VLA)

sustain

(any multiphonic
p on IV)

p

sul tasto

-31

I AM A TOWER
THOUSANDS
OF FEET TALL. %

p

(mf)

7 /

VLN 1

I AM A TOWER
THOUSANDS OF
FEET TALL.

ord. (trill + tremolo) (w/VLN2)

tr -31 I AM A TOWER THOUSANDS OF FEET TALL. f

(sustain trill + tremolo) ff

8va # E EVERYONE CAN SEE ME fff

2nd

loco (p) f

sul tasto mf

pp

VLN 2

I AM A TOWER
THOUSANDS OF
FEET TALL.

poco sul pont. (trill + tremolo) (w/VLN1) ord.

tr I AM A TOWER THOUSANDS OF FEET TALL. f

(sustain trill + tremolo) ff

(4) E EVERYONE CAN SEE ME fff

Sul pont. P

ord. ff

pp

VLA

I AM A TOWER
THOUSANDS OF
FEET TALL.

-14 I AM A TOWER THOUSANDS OF FEET TALL. f

tr (sustain) gliss. while trilling ff

(e) E EVERYONE CAN SEE ME fff

2nd

ord. sul pont. mf

pp

CELLO

sul pont. tr (slow, while trilling) rit. words I AM A TOWER. mf

tr (sustain) gliss. while trilling f

(while trilling) E EVERYONE CAN SEE ME fff

sul pont. P

ord. gliss. harm. ff

pp

15"

30"

5"

TUTTI

VLN I

ord. -14 I legato
 -31 II
 EVERYBODY
 FOR MILES
 CAN SEE ME (ricochet)

sffz mf P > PP

Sul pont. flaut. I II

3"

ord. gliss. high harmonics → sul pont. → ord.
 15ma
 PP mf PP

VLN 2

legato
 IV
 EVERYBODY
 FOR MILES
 CAN SEE ME (ricochet)

-14 sffz mf PP

sul pont. flaut. II IV (#)

IV -14 III
 EVERYTHING IS
 FINE. I AM FINE.

PP PP mf PP

IV II III

VLA

ord. -31 legato
 EVERYBODY
 FOR MILES
 CAN SEE ME (ricochet)

sffz mf PP

gliss. over 1 rep.

sul tasto
 I II III IV
 EVERYTHING IS
 FINE. I AM FINE.

PP P PP

I II III IV #

CELLO

8va -14 III legato
 EVERYBODY
 FOR MILES
 CAN SEE ME (ricochet)

(loco) IV sffz P < f > P

poco sul pont. -14 I II (#) 9th pt

Flaut. -14 I
 EVERYTHING IS
 FINE. I AM FINE.

PP # IV

ord. I II III IV #

P PP

VLN I
 Flaut. #
 gliss. very high harmonics freely
 pp
 p
 mf
 pp
 sustain, legato
 hair sounds
 n

VLN 2
 con sord.
 2"
 EVERYTHING IS FINE. I AM FINE.
 pp
 THIS IS MY SCARY ROBOT VOICE
 pp
 sul pont. → ord.
 -14 p
 col legno, legato
 circular bowing (final sound)
 pp
 n

VLA
 sul pont.
 gliss. high harmonics freely
 pp
 I
 8va
 (with harmonic glisses)
 THIS IS MY SCARY ROBOT VOICE
 p
 loco
 -14
 ↓#
 EVERYTHING IS FINE. I AM FINE.
 mf
 pp
 n

CELLO
 2"
 sul pont. legato
 EVERYTHING IS FINE. I AM FINE.
 pp
 ord.
 mf
 sul tasto flaut.
 sustain
 pp
 n