

Malfunctioning Devices (I - V)

by Howie Kenty

for Solo Piano

~9:00

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Malfunctioning Devices is a series of miniatures, each of which represents objects, places, or situations in which something has gone awry. Meant to be self-contained but performed together, they are entitled as follows:

- I. *The Pressure's Off*
- II. *The Oblong Wheel*
- III. *The Untethered Dynamo*
- IV. *The Factory*
- V. *Cold Dirt Elevator*

Each busted, cantankerous machine was constructed by freely reordering and mangling trichords created from vertical slices of parallel divergent chromatic wedges in a variation on a George Perle-inspired method, with each miniature focusing on a different set of source pitch classes, source intervals, and, wedge direction, beginning as follows (note the anomalous pitch class B omitted from the wedge pitch set, bookending IV (the miniature most anomalous in interval and pitch class pattern)):

To the Performer:

Great care should be taken to observe the dynamic markings and to emphasize the contrasts between loud and quiet areas, particularly in the thunderous gestures in sections II and V. Similarly, the performer should emphasize the contrast between areas that are to be played mechanically (these are machines, after all) versus those that are to be played expressively.

- Howie Kenty,
2011-2012

Malfunctioning Devices

Solo Piano

I. The Pressure's Off

Howie Kenty

$\text{♩} = 70$ Begin slowly, gradually
accel, vary speed

Piano

6 *slight rit.* * ♫
7 *a tempo* * ♫
8 * ♫
9 * ♫
10 * ♫
15 * ♫ (An intruder!) * ♫
C. 2011-2012

Malfunctioning Devices, I. The Pressure's Off

19 Distinctly

22 accel. slight rit.

23 a tempo (An intruder!)

27

31 slight rit. a tempo

Malfunctioning Devices

Solo Piano

II. The Oblong Wheel

Howie Kenty

Musical score for piano, page 5, measures 5-10. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and a 3/4 time signature. Measure 5: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs with a '3' below. Bass staff has eighth notes with a '3' below. Measure 6: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs with a '3' below. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs with a '3' below. Measure 7: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs with a '3' below. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs with a '3' below. Measure 8: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs with a '3' below. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs with a '3' below. Measure 9: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs with a '3' below. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs with a '3' below. Measure 10: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs with a '3' below. Bass staff has eighth-note pairs with a '3' below.

8
ff

5

9

f sfz

mp

5 5 5

10

11

12

Ped. * Ped. *

(Progressively lower pedal) *

Malfunctioning Devices, II. The Oblong Wheel

$\text{♩} = 65$ Expressively

p

sfs

Reo. * *Reo.* * *Reo.*

accel.

Mechanically

a tempo

ff

Reo. * *Reo.* * *Reo.* * *Reo.*

rit. *accel.*

a tempo

slight rit.

$\text{♩} = 65$

5 *5*

Reo. * *Reo.* * *Reo.* * *Reo.*

6

a tempo

23

$\text{J} = 65$ Gradually more expressively...

rit.

24

25

26

Reo.

*

Reo.

*

$\text{J} = 50$

26

Reo.

*

p

*

pp

*

Reo.

*

Reo.

*

$\text{J} = 80$ Mechanically

30

f

*

31

*

32

*

Malfunctioning Devices

Solo Piano

III. The Untethered Dynamo

Howie Kenty

Malfunctioning Devices, III. The Untethered Dynamo

Musical score for piano, page 12, measures 12-14. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Measure 12 starts with a dynamic *p*. Measure 13 begins with a dynamic *mf*. Measure 14 starts with a dynamic *rit.*. Various performance markings like "3", "5", and "6" are present above the notes. A tempo marking ** Lento.* is at the bottom center. Measure numbers 12, 13, and 14 are indicated above the staves.

meno mosso

14

mp

f

poco rit.

$\text{J} = 75$

pp

p

Ped.

** Ped.*

** Ped.*

Musical score for piano, page 17, measures 5-6. The score is in 2/4 time, treble and bass staves. Measure 5 starts with a forte dynamic (f) and ends with a decrescendo (>) over a sustained note. Measure 6 begins with a piano dynamic (pp). The bass staff features a sustained note with a fermata. The score includes performance instructions: * Leo. and *.

Musical score for piano, page 20, measures 20-24. The score consists of two staves. The top staff starts with a rest followed by a dynamic **p**. It features a sixteenth-note pattern with grace notes and slurs. The bottom staff starts with a dynamic **pp**, followed by a dynamic **p** and a fermata. Measure 21 begins with a dynamic **p**. Measure 22 starts with a dynamic **mp**. Measure 23 begins with a dynamic **f**. Measure 24 ends with a dynamic **v**.

Malfunctioning Devices, III. The Untethered Dynamo

Musical score for piano, page 24, measures 24-25. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and 4/4 time, starting with a dynamic of p . It features a melodic line with various note heads and rests, some grouped by vertical lines. Measure 24 ends with a forte dynamic ff . The bottom staff is in bass clef and 4/4 time. Measures 24 and 25 begin with a dynamic of p , indicated by a circled "p". The music continues with a melodic line, including eighth-note patterns and rests. Measure 25 concludes with a dynamic of f .

Musical score for piano, page 10, system 31. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature changes between F major (one sharp) and E major (two sharps). The time signature changes between common time and 2/4. The dynamic is marked as *pp*. The tempo is marked as *rit.* (ritardando). The score includes several grace notes and slurs. The bass staff features sustained notes with fermatas. The vocal part has lyrics in Italian: "Rivo.", "*", "Rivo.", "*", "Rivo.", "*" located at the bottom of the page.

Malfunctioning Devices

Solo Piano

IV. The Factory

Howie Kenty

Clangorous, with a mechanical groove

$\text{♩} = 100$

Piano

6

poco accel.

ppp

pp

8va-

11

$\text{♩} = 105$

l.h.

$r.h.$

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Malfunctioning Devices, IV. The Factory

18

l.h.

r.h.

Reo. *

Reo. *

8va

ppp

22

mp

26

mf

ff

30

f

Reo. *

Malfunctioning Devices, IV. The Factory

3

poco espress.

33

35

ppp

d = 90 espress.

Reo.

*

38

poco rit.

Reo.

5

**Reo.*

*

42

pppp

4:3

Malfunctioning Devices

Score

V. Cold Dirt Elevator

Howie Kenty

Malfunctioning Devices: V. Cold Dirt Elevator

Pointillistic and distinct

8

10

meno mosso

12

rit.

14

$\text{♩} = 100$

Malfunctioning Devices: V. Cold Dirt Elevator

3

rit.

16 8

 $\text{♩} = 85$

18 8

Rit.

21

23

Rit.

$\frac{5+5+5+5}{16}$

Malfunctioning Devices: V. Cold Dirt Elevator

accel.

25

p

f

 $\text{♩} = 105$

26

fff

$\text{♩} = 105$

29

8vb

3

Thunderous!

31

11/8

11/8

Thunderous!

3

p

f