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Contemporary Music Score Collection

Title

Mean Time Between Failure

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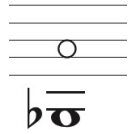
Mean Time Between Failure
by Sarah Palermo

for bassoon, voice, and electronics

Notation / Performance Instructions

Bassoon

Multiphonics



The large note on the staff indicates the base fingering. Shaded notes refer to keys added to the base fingering and empty notes refer to keys removed from the base fingering. Bassoon multiphonic notation, fingering, and chord notes by Lesley Ross.

Example shown: finger Bb1, removing C2 key.



key clicks. Specific notes indicated are suggestions and not actually specific

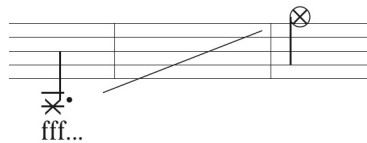


play only using reed, rising and falling glissandi, imitating a siren.
Unspecified pitches.

Voice

Most spoken text does not have a specific rhythm and can be spoken freely around the time indicated. A bolded word indicates the corresponding electronic cue should be triggered simultaneously with that word.

Sung lines, unless accompanied by text, may be sung on a vowel of the vocalist's choosing and can be modified for register shifts. Consonants ([l], [n], [d], or [t]) may be included sporadically as desired by the performer, to articulate faster passages (for example, sixteenth notes or staccato notes in mm. 44-52) or simply to refresh the gesture.



Breathe in on [f] and gradually increase the speed of air intake to raise pitch. Release (somehow)



in-suf-fi-cient da-ta to ac-cess spec-i-fied con-tent.

Unspecific pitches. Start high and descend smoothly and slowly throughout the phrase.

Mean Time Between Failure

for bassoon, voice, and electronics

Music and text by
Sarah Palermo

(reboot sequence)

$\text{♩} = 200$

Bassoon

Click track starts

mp

"Start up sequence initiated.
Unit 098 S1-10."

"Sensor matrix enabled."

1 Machine groaning
9.5 sec.

2

5

Bsn.

V.

"Calibrating synthetic motor cortex."

3

11

Bsn.

V.

"Optimizing autonomic functionality."

4

15

Bsn.

V.

mf

sub p

20

Bsn.

V.

mp

Repeat and breathe as necessary,
with each repetition reaching a higher dynamic level.

26

Bsn.

V.

"Start-up **sequence** complete. Unit is online."

5 Click track stops
Pulsing, motor hum
20 sec

pp *ff* *p*

A Energetic and lively

♩ = 120

Bsn.

V.

"Instructions received.
Begin **program** B-9."

6 7 Click track starts again

p *sfz* *f* *ff*

31

Bsn.

V.

8

mf *mf*

35

Bsn.

V.

39 B $\text{♩} = 69$

Bsn. mf 2 2

V. "Operating at maximum efficiency." 9 10 Ef-

43 $\text{♩} = 112$ ($\text{♩} \approx \text{♩}$) $\text{♩} = 69$ ($\text{♩} \approx \text{♩}$) 11

Bsn. mf

V. fic-ien-cy 12 $\text{♩} = 112$ ($\text{♩} \approx \text{♩}$) $\text{♩} = 69$ ($\text{♩} \approx \text{♩}$)

47 $tr.$

Bsn.

V.

50 $\text{♩} = 112$

Bsn.

V.

4

54

Bsn.

V.

57

C ♩ = 184

Bsn.

V.

60

♩ = 92
(♩ = ♩)♩ = 184
(♩ = ♩)

Bsn.

V.

mp

mf

64

Bsn.

V.

68

Bsn.

V.

$\text{♩} = 126$
 $(\text{♩} = \text{♩})$

71

Bsn.

V.

77

Bsn.

V.

mf

$\text{♩} = 184$
 $(\text{♩} = \text{♩})$

80

Bsn.

V.

f

f

tr

85

Bsn.

quasi cadenza, very expressive

mf

Click track stops
Spectral hold

13

14

Click track starts again
Pre-recorded bassoon

D

a tempo
 $(\text{♩} = \text{♩})$

Bsn.

V.

mp

6
90

Bsn.

V.

fff...

15

16

17

18

"Redundancy detected.
Attempt—Attempting to stabilize."

pitch bend

Bsn.

V.

Elec.

19

etc.

"Efficiency at 87% and falling. Encountering—"

Bsn.

V.

fp

p

sf

3-5x

20

21

"—sensory feedback."

"Attempting—"

3-5x move on after bassoon

"—to normalize."

Bsn.

V.

p

sf

mf

remove reed

reed only like a siren

22

"Efficiency at 65%... 41%..."

"Efficiency... feedback..."

Bsn.

V. "Unit 9... / 0 / 9 8..." "1 1 5.. 1 0 1 5 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 — 10%!"

gradually faster

(23) (24)

Bsn.

V. *spoken, gradually decreasing in pitch*

"E-mer - gen - cy shut - down failed."

the gnarliest sounds you can make slash reed improv time

E replace reed

"I remember."

fff...

(25) (26) (27) (28)

V. "It was... / I / was broken." "It wasszzzzzz..."

(29) (30)

V. *f* *sung* *Gliss.*

in - suf - fi - cient da - ta to ac - cess spe - ci - fied con - tent

(31)

Bsn.

V. *p* *mp*

"No, I remember!" "/ I / remember.. "

(32) (33)

8

94

 $\text{♩} = 56$

Bsn.

V.

mp

p

mp

(hum)

98

Bsn.

V.

poco rit.

a tempo

(sung)

34

click track

F

 $\text{♩} = 168$

Bsn.

V.

mp

104

Bsn.

V.

Spoken:

But what does it mean? What does it,

poco piu mosso

107

♩ = 184

Bsn. *p cresc.*

V. *p fluid*

I need I need I need, — I need I need I need, — I need I need I need

110

Bsn. *mp*

V. *mp*

— some-thing — to be - lieve some thing to hold on-to, — I —

113

Bsn. *mf cresc.*

V. *mf cresc.*

— need, — I — need, —

116

Bsn. *f*

V. *f*

"the sound of the ocean as the waves roll in is a enough for me to know this world is mine" "when for generations we've stared at astronomical bodies in the sky..."

whisper quickly, quietly, and indistinctly

(35) delay

10

120

Bsn. *sub p* *molto cresc.* *mf* *f* *rubato*

V. "analyzing electromagnetic radiation and asking questions"

as if the u - ni - verse knows _____

36

123

Bsn. *mp* *mp* *freely*

V. what makes us hu - man. ____ what makes us, makes

37 delay

127

Bsn. *p* *dim.*

V. us, what makes us, fff... electronics fade

38 delay off 39 40 41