

Connor Gibbs

Not Knowing
for Unaccompanied Baritone

(2018)



FOR PERUSAL ONLY

About the Work

Not Knowing is a song for an unaccompanied baritone singer. The text, the effects, and the leaping melody create an air of instability, portraying a dramatic essence of fear and anxiety.

The Text

The poem for *Not Knowing* was created by randomly generating sentences with 5 different generators online. The jagged continuity through the lines echo the dramatic mood set.

I am never at home on Sundays.
I often see the time 11:11 or 12:34 on clocks.
Everyone was busy, so I went to the movie alone.
Two seats were vacant.
Is it free?
Tomorrow has your skin crawling.
Tranquility wants to go to hell.

Speaking

Cross-shape (X) noteheads are used to indicate spoken passages. At 19 (*two seats...*) and 23 — which requires a [loud] stage whisper — should avoid using pitch. In 23 and 47 are two *falls*, where the speech should drop in pitch at the end.

Falsetto / Humming

If possible, the singer should sing at 25-26 in falsetto. If this passage remains unachievable, it may be lowered an octave. Humming passages should be soft but present (suggested *mp*).

Teeth and Tongue

In 39-40, the tongue is placed against the back of the top of the teeth to create a high "whistle-like" sound (*tsss*). This should first be approached from moving to this position from a syllable *Woo* to create a rush of air (*whoosh!*). The following measure, marked with double staccato, is to indicate rapid attacks of air made with the tongue against the back of the teeth, gradually lowering the tongue toward a rested position (as if to sing/say *Woo* again).

Hand Motions

At 40, the singer must move their hands together quickly, as if washing their hands, to create additional sound. At 31 and 43, three handclaps are needed.

Not Knowing

for solo baritone, unaccompanied

Randomly Generated Text

Connor D. Gibbs
(2018)

$\text{♩} = 66$
mp

(Hum) — I am ³ ne-ver at home — on Sun-days. — *spoken* Tick, tick, tick, tick, tick, tick, oh! *mf*

6 *mp* *f*
I — of - ten see the time e - le-ven e - le-ven (Tick, tick, tick) or twelve

10 *mp* *mf*
thir-ty-four (Tick, tick, tick, tick) on clocks. (Hum) — Ev-ery-one was bus-y

14 *pp* *p* whispered
(Tick, tick) So I went to the mov-ie a - lone. a-lone. Two seats were

18 *simile* *f*
va- cant!! Two seats were va- cant!! Tick, tick, tick, tick, tick, tick, oh!

23 *p* whispered // *mp* *mp*
Is it free? Ooh... (opt. 8vb) e - le-ven, e - le-ven

28 *ff* *mf* *p*
I am ³ ne-ver at home — ³ ne-ver at home! — Ooh... handclaps