

SONGS OF NEW AND OTHERWISE

BY

TOBY LURIE

PREFACE

The challenge, always, for me is to convert the language of words to the language of music, without losing the language of words. These two disciplines are naturally connected. Word-speak contains pitches, rhythms, dynamics and tempo, and a sentence is structured from forms as definable as forms of music. In introducing music forms to language, it becomes more recognizable as music, and the use of multiple voices brings the two disciplines still closer together.

I've often questioned the value of this approach to writing poetry, yet I continue in this direction because it feels authentic and logical. I know that one exists within the other and by extending this concept to include the other major disciplines of dance, performance and painting I arrive at the concept of Synesthesia, the cross-referencing of all creative forms of expression.

Songs of New and Otherwise, as with my other books in this series is filled with such musical forms as fugues, rondos, crab-fugues and imitations, and should be read aloud, by whatever number of voices are called for. Parentheses indicate that a theme is being borrowed from another part or moving in reverse. Dashes indicate a period of silence.

Toby Lurie, 12/11/02

BEGUN

1 Begun ----- Begun -----

2 **Yes begun**

3 as not before

4 **without a thought**

1 begun -----

2 **they've begun**

3 as not before

4 **begun**

without a thought

they've begun -----

1 without a thought

2 **voices all**

3 Hear them

4 **as not before**

begun -----

as not before

as not before

1 as not before - - - - -
2 **as not before - - - - -**
3 without a thought
4 **with out a thought - - - - -**

1 without a thought
2 **hear them - - - - -** **they've begun**
3 hear them - - - - - here in this moment
4

1 as not before
2 **without a thought**
3 hear them - - - - - wailing - - - - -
4 **hear them - - - - -**

1 here in this moment
2 **without a thought**
3 as not before as not before - - - - -
4 **they've begun**

1 they've begun - - - - and once more without a thought
2 **they've begun**
3 they've begun here in this moment
4 **they've begun** a thought without

1 as not before
2 **they've begun** - - - - and again
3 yes begun
4 yes begun they've begun - - - -

1 as not before in this moment
2 **and again**
3 without a thought in this moment - - - they've begun
4 **and again**

1 they've begun
2 here in this moment - - - -
3 and once more
4 they've begun without a thought

1 and once more
2 hear them
3 as not before - - - -
4 **listen** listen - - - - - listen - - - - -

1 listen - - - - - I'm alone now
2 I'm now alone
3
4 **listen - - - - - without a thought** I'm alone now

1 in a moment
2 and again
3 without a thought - - - - and once more they've begun
4 and once more they've begun

1 and at once
2 without a thought
3 and once more they've begun
4 **and once more they've begun** as not before

1 wailing (wailing
2 **hear them** **(hear them**
3 in this moment and again - - - - (in this moment
4

1 and at once) I'm now alone - - - -
2 **without a thought)**
3 they've begun) - - - -
4 **(as not before)**

1 now alone alone - - - -
2 **here in this moment**
3 as not before and again
4 **I'm now alone now alone**

1 and again
2 **and once more** **they've begun - - - -**
3 alone - - - -
4 **alone - - - - I'm now alone - - - -**

1 hear them - - - - -

2

3

without a thought - - - - -

without a thought

4

I'm alone now

I'm now alone

1

as not before

2 **as not before - - - - -**

and once more - - - - -

3

without a thought

4

I'm now alone

1

without a thought

2

as not before

3

and once more

4 **I'm now alone**

they've begun - - - - -

1

as not before

2

without a thought

in this moment

3

I'm now alone

and once more

4

they've begun

1 - - - - I'm now alone
2 **without a thought** **and once more**
3 as not before
4 **they've begun**

1 in this moment - - - -
2 **I'm now alone - - - -**
3 hear the wailing - - - -
4 **I'm now alone - - - -**

1 as not before and once more
2 **It's great to be alive**
3 in this moment - - - -
4 **without a thought**

1 and once more
2 **It's great to be alive - - - -**
3 in this moment
4 **without a thought** **and again**

1 and again - - - - -
2 **as not before** - - - - - **and again** - - - - -
3 and again - - - - -
4 **and again** - - - - -

1 again...
2 **again...**
3 again...
4 **again...**

3/04

ONE NEVER KNOWS

1 One never knows one never knows
2 **The sun pauses - - - - - at the edge of the horizon - - - -**

1 one thinks one knows but one never knows
2 **it is about to be taken the sky is virtually cloudless**

1 - - - Perhaps there is nothing to know - - - - -
2 **one never knows one never knows - - - - -**

3 One thinks one knows
4 **The sun pauses at the edge of the horizon it is about to be taken**

3 but one never knows perhaps perhaps there is nothing
4 **the sky is virtually cloudless**

3 nothing - - - - - to know - - - - -
4 **perhaps there is nothing - - - - - one never knows - - - - -**

1 It has become flat at its bottom
2 **one questions "know" what is there to know - - - - -**

1 half of the sun has been taken
2 **and is it worth knowing one questions "know" - - - - -**

1 now three quarters it spins like a top
2 **what is there to know and is it worth knowing**

1 now it's a hat - - - - - it hovers vibrating
2 **one questions "know" what is there to know**

1 refusing to go - - - - - one never knows
2 **the question what is there to know - - - - -**

1 now it's gone to the east the sky
2 **there are feelings** **there are things**
3 there are feelings

1 is filled with a light mist I know this
2 **there are people** **this one knows**
3 there are things

1
2 **I've not spoken of the waves** **continuous and eternal**
3 there are people (I must speak of them)

1 I know this because
2 **voice of the sea** **and the sea has always spoken to me**
3 this one knows

1 I listen - - - - something
2 **this I know - - -** **there are people**
3 one never knows there are feelings

1 as all the other things that may never be seen
2 **this one knows**
3 there are things and there are people

1 but one never knows
2 **but one never knows**
3 but one never knows
4 ----- **That was yesterday ----- today is today and there is so much**

1 That was yesterday today
2 **one never knows**
3
4 **to know and so much not to know -----**

1 is today and there is so much to know
2 **one thinks one knows**
3 continuous and eternal
4

1 that was yesterday
2 **one never knows**
3 Voice of the sea
4 **but one never knows - - - - -**

1 today is today and there is so much
2 **one thinks one knows**
3 continuous and eternal - - - - -
4

1 to know - - - - - I know
2 **perhaps there is nothing**
3 Voice of the sea
4 **but one never knows**

1 where I am at this moment
2
3 and the sea has always
4 **something as all the other things**

1 and I know who I am - - - - -
2
3 spoken to me this I know
4 **even if it is nothing - - - - -**

1 one never knows The highest state that one can hope
2 **one never knows** The highest state
3 one never knows - - - - - this I know
4 **one never knows**

1 to experience is that one feels
2 **that one can hope**
3 It means that one must know
4

1 completely contained
2 **to experience**
3 one's self on all levels
4 **It means** **that one must know**

1 that one can hope to experience
2 **is that one feels**
3 by the voice of music
4 **if one is never touched**

1 is that one feels
2 **completely contained**
3 if one has never loved
4 **by the voice of music - - - - -**

1 completely contained
2 **within one's self**
3 has never loved another
4 **if one has never loved**

1 within one's self
2 **it means that one must know**
3 as much as one's self - - -
4 **another - - -**

1 (within one's self
2 **it means** (that one must know **it means)**
3
4 (another - - - - - **another)**

1 within one's self) - - - - - on all levels - - - - -
2 **on all levels** - - - - -
3 on all levels - - - - -
4 **on all levels** - - - - - **as much as one's self**

1
2 **completely** - - - - -
3 or if one has no idea what the soul might be
4 **or if one has no idea what the soul might be** - - - - -

1 completely - - - - -
2 **this I know** - - - - - **that there are people**
3 one never knows
4 **one never knows**

1 at this moment - - - -
2 **within one's self**
3 at this moment - - - -
4 **within one's self - - - -**

1 this moment
2 **that was yesterday - - - -**
3 at this moment - - - - within one's self - - - -
4 **that was yesterday - - - -**

1 today is today - - - - but one never knows - - - -
2 **one thinks one knows and there is so much**
3 today is today - - - - but one never knows - - - -
4 **one thinks one knows**

1 so much not to know - - - -
2 **this I know - - - -**
3 and so much
4 **so much to know this I know - - - -**

1 but one never knows ----- never knows -----
2 **but one never knows** **never knows...**
3 but one never knows ----- never knows -----
4 **but one never knows** **never knows...**

Ft. Bragg 10/04

HOW TO BEGIN

1 How to begin - - - with a question or an answer
2 **How to begin with a question**
3 How to begin

1 - - - - - It's never easy How to begin
2 **or an answer - - - - - it's never easy**
3 with a question

1 with a question - - - - - or an answer
2 **beginnings and endings**
3 or an answer it's never easy

1 it's never easy - - - - - beginnings and endings
2 **they're all the same**
3 beginnings and endings they're all the same

1 they're all the same - - - - -
2 **one becomes the other** **and the question**
3 one becomes the other

1 (they're all the same beginnings and endings
2 **remains unanswered - - - - -**
3 and the question

1 it's never easy - - - - - or an answer
2 **but we must begin**
3 remains the same but we must begin

1 with a question)
2 **and proceed ahead** **to some conclusion**
3 and proceed ahead - - - - -

1 how to begin a conclusion of what?
2 **how to begin - - - - - to some conclusion** **a conclusion - - - - -**
3 how to begin

1 There is no question so there is no answer
2 of what? - - - - - there is no question
3 a conclusion

1 How then to begin and what
2 so there is no answer
3 of what? - - - - - there is no question

1 to begin and for what reason - - - - -
2 how then to begin - - - - -
3 so there is no answer

1 How to begin
2 and for what reason - - - - -
3 how then to begin and what to begin - - - - -

1 with a question or an answer
2 one becomes the other
3 and for what reason - - - - -

1 it's never easy - - - - -
2 **and the question remains** **unanswered**
3 a conclusion of what?

1 beginnings and endings
2 **but we must begin - - - - -** **and proceed ahead**
3 there is no question

1 they're all the same
2 **to some conclusion - - - - -**
3 so there is no answer How then to begin

1 How then and for what reason - - - - -
2 **How then** **to begin** **what reason**
3 and what to begin and for what reason - - - - -

1 (they're all the same
2 **- - - (to some conclusion** **and proceed ahead**
3 (and for what reason

1 beginnings and endings
2 **but we must begin**
3 and what to begin How then to begin

1 it's never easy or an answer
2 **remains unanswered** **and the question**
3 so there is no answer

1 with a question
2 **one becomes the other)** **and the question**
3 There is no question of what

1 How to begin) - - - - with a question
2 **remains unanswered**
3 a conclusion) of what - - - -

1 or an answer it's never easy - - - -
2 **but we must** **begin - - - -**
3 there is no question

1 beginnings and endings
2 and proceed ahead to some conclusion
 3 so there is no answer

1 they're all the same I don't know - - - - -
2
 3 How then to begin and for what reason - - - - -

1 there is nothing to know there is nothing
2 I don't know there is nothing
 3 I don't know

1 not to know there is nothing - - - - -
2 to know there is nothing
 3 there is nothing to know

1 which is everything - - - - -
2 there is nothing which is nothing
 3 there is nothing - - - - - which is everything - - - - -

1 - - - - - how to begin - - - - -

2 **just begin - - - - - begin...**

3 - - - - - how to begin - - - - -

9/04

THEME AND VARIATIONS

A

She smiled at me
They are rolling dice at the bar
He is tearing at his chicken
You are at home
Most of us are overfed
Most of us are lonely.

B

She is table hopping
They are getting drunk
He is smoking a cigarette
You are having a cup of coffee
Most of us are without passion
Most of us are uncertain.

1 Most of us are lonely - - - - She is table hopping
2 **She is too young** **Most of us are uncertain - - - -**

1 They are getting drunk He is smoking a cigarette
2 **Most of us are without passion - - - -** **You are having**

1 You are having a cup of coffee Most of us are without passion
2 **a cup of coffee** **He is smoking a cigarette**

1 Most of us are uncertain She is too young
2 **They are getting drunk** **She is table hopping**

1 They have lost their desire - - lost their desire
2 **Most of us are lonely** **Most of us are overfed**

1 He is trying to forget and remember
2 **forget and remember - - - -** **You are at home**

1 You are remembering Most of us have given up
2 **He is tearing at his chicken** **They are rolling**

1 Most of us are dying -----
2 **dice at the bar** **She smiled at me.**

II

1 She smiled at me They are
2 **They are getting drunk**
3 He is trying to forget and remember

1 rolling dice at the bar He is tearing
2 **He is smoking a cigarette**
3 You are remembering - - - - -

1 at his chicken You are at home
2 **You are having a cup of coffee** **Most of us are**
3 Most of us have given up

1 Most of us are overfed
2 **without passion - - - - -** **Most of us - -**
3 Most of us - - are dying

1 Most of us are lonely
2 **are uncertain - - - - -** **She is table hopping**
3 She is too young

1 They have lost their desire.
2 **They have lost their desire.**
3 They have lost their desire.

III

1 She smiled at me They are getting drunk
2 **They are rolling dice at the bar**
3 She is table hopping

1 You are
2 **She is too young** He is - - - - smoking a cigarette
3 They have lost their desire

1 having a cup of coffee - - - - He
2 **He is** trying
3 He is trying to forget and remember

1 is trying to forget and remember - - - -
2 **to forget** and remember
3 You are remembering

1 He is tearing at his chicken Most of us have given up
2 **You are at home** - - - - **Most of us**
3 Most of us

1 Most of us are lonely - - - - -
2 **Most of us** are overfed - - - - -
3 are dying - - - - - Most of us are lonely - - - - -

1 Most of us are without passion - - - - -
2 **are uncertain.**
3 Most of us are without passion - - - - -

IV

1 She - - - - - Most of us are getting drunk
2 **He - - - - - You - - - - -**
3 They - - - - - Most of us are lonely - - - - -

1 are remembering - - - - - Most of us
2 **have lost their desire** **Most of us**
3 Most of us are uncertain

1 is too young is table hopping - - - - -
2 **are at home** **is tearing at his chicken** **Most of us**
3

1 Most of us are rolling dice at the bar is too young
2 **are having a cup of coffee**
3 Most of us are without passion

1 Most of us She - - - -
2 **is trying to forget - - - - and remember - - - -**
3 Most of us have given up - - - -

1 Most of us - - - - are.
2 **He - - - - You - - - - Most of us - - - - - - - -**
3 They - - - - Most of us - - - - are.

V

1 She smiled at me
2 **They have lost their desire**
3 He is trying to forget and remember
4 **Most of us**

1 smiled at me
2 **their desire**
3 and remember to forget
4 **have given up - - - - -** **have given up - - - - -**

1 she smiled - - - - - She - - - - -
2 **they have lost** **They - - - - -**
3 he is trying - - - - -
4 **Most of us - - - - -**

1 She smiled at me
2 **They** **have lost their desire**
3 He - - - - - He is trying
4 **Most of us** **have given up**

1 You are at home
2
3 to forget - - - - - and remember - - - - -
4 **Most of us** **are lonely** **Most of us**

1
 2 **They are** getting drunk - - - -
 3 You are remembering
 4 **are uncertain** Most of us have given up

1 He is smoking a cigarette
 2
 3 They
 4 **Most of us** are dying Most of us are without passion - - - -

1
 2 He is tearing
 3 have lost their desire - - - - at his chicken - - - -
 4 **Most of us** - - - - are overfed

1 Most of us - - - - - dying...
 2 **Most of us** - - - - - are dying - - - - -
 3 Most of us - - - - - dying...
 4 **Most of us** - - - - - are dying - - - - -
 San Francisco 1991

TEXTS FOR NOTHING

1 It's the quality and the perception
2 **The quality of silence the quality of perception**

1 of experience - - - - that matters the experience
2 **This is what values our lives to see**

1 is no better nor worse than these quality
2 **hear and feel without seeing hearing and feeling**

1 and perception (quality and perception
2 **is to experience nothing - - - - (hearing and feeling**

1 than these nor worse is no better the experience
2 **without seeing hear and feel to see**

1 that matters of experience and the
2 **what values our lives this is the quality of perception**

1 perception it's the quality) - - - - the quality of silence
2 **the quality of silence) the quality of silence - - -**

1 of silence - - - - -
2 **silence - - - - -**

3 Knowing that there is nothing to know knowing
4 **Knowing to know that there is nothing - - - -**

3 with a certainty that there is nothing
4 **to know knowing with a certainty that here is nothing**

3 - - - - nothing beyond which is nothing and no need
4 **nothing beyond which is nothing**

3 to know that which can never be known
4 and no need to know that which can never be

3 for it is nothing (nothing for it is
4 known for it is nothing - - - - (known which can never be

3 known which can never be that to know
4 that to know and no need which is nothing

3 and no need which is nothing nothing beyond - - - -
4 beyond nothing that there is nothing

3 nothing that there is with a certainty knowing - - - - -
4 with a certainty knowing to know

3 to know nothing that there is nothing) - - - - -
4 nothing that there is to know nothing) - - - - -

1 Only the words break the silence all other sounds
2 **Only the words break the silence**

1 have ceased If I were silent I'd hear nothing
2 **only the words break the silence only the words**

1 but if I were silent the other sounds
2 **break the silence all other sounds have ceased**

1 would start again - - - - those to which the words have made me deaf
2 **If I were silent**

1 or which had really ceased but I am silent
2 **I'd heard nothing if I were silent I'd hear nothing**

1 I weep too without interruption It's an unbroken flow
2 **but if I were silent the other sounds**

1 of words and tears (it's an unbroken flow - - - - -
2 **would start again** (would start again

1 without interruption I weep too) - - - -words of wisdom
2 **but other sounds** but if I were silent)

1 of madness of desperation
2 **It's the quality** and the perception
3 Words of wisdom
4 **The quality**

1 of faith
2 **of experience** that matters
3 of madness - - - - -
4 **of silence - - - - -** the quality

1 vacant words lost in silence
2 **the experience** is no better
3 of desperation of faith
4 **of perception**

1 who speaks
2 **nor worse**
3 vacant words lost in silence - - - -
4 **this is** what values our lives - - -

1 what - - - if anything is said
2 **than these**
3 words words of wisdom
4 **to see** hearing and feeling

1
2 **quality and perception** experience
3 to experience nothing
4 **is to experience nothing - - - - -**

1 nothing - - - - - for what reason who speaks
2 **nothing** - - - - - **knowing**
3 of madness
4

1 (there is
2 **that there is nothing**
3 of desperation (there is
4 **knowing that there is nothing** - - - - -

1 nothing) - - - - - (that there is nothing)
2 **knowing that there is nothing**
3 nothing) - - - - - (that there is nothing) - - - - - who hears
4 **to know that there is nothing**

1 what if anything
2 **knowing with a certainty that there is nothing**
3 (if anything what)
4 **knowing that there is**

1 is said for what reason lost in silence
 2 **nothing beyond**
 3 vacant words lost in silence
 4 **nothing beyond - - - - -**

1 only the words break the silence - - - - -
 2 **which is nothing**
 3
 4 **which is nothing words**

1 all other sounds
 2 **and no need to know that which can never be known**
 3 of wisdom
 4 **that which can never be known**

1 have ceased if - - - - -
 2 **for it is nothing**
 3 of madness
 4 **is nothing - - - - - is nothing - - - - -**

1 will not let me in or out) the quality of silence
2 **or out**
3 the quality of silence
4 **knowing with a certainty that there is nothing**

1 the other sounds would
2 **nothing - - - - - a ringing silence**
3 - - - - - there is
4 **nothing beyond**

1 start again but I am silent I weep too
2 **only when I listen and I listen when I remember**
3
4

1 (I weep too but I am silent)
2 **(and I listen only when I listen) - - - - -**
3
4 **beyond - - - which is nothing**

1 without interruption without interruption
2 **when I remember**
3 only when I listen
4 **there is nothing**

1 I weep too without interruption - - - - -
2 **when I remember**
3
4 **and no need to know - - - - -**

1 it's an unbroken
2 **when I remember**
3 knowing knowing
4 **that which can never be known - - - - -**

1 flow it's an unbroken flow
2 **when I remember**
3 only when I listen
4 **for it is nothing**

1 for it is nothing
2 **when I remember** - - - -
3 lost in silence - - - -
4 **only when I listen** - - - -

1 nothing - - - -
2 **if anything** - - - - **only when I listen**
3 with a certainty - - - -
4 **knowing** - - - -

1 if anything - - - -
2 **beyond silence** - - - - -
3 for it is nothing - - - -
4 **with a certainty** - - - -

1 (if anything - - - -
2 **beyond silence** - - - -
3 the ringing - - - - the ringing
4 **when I remember**

1 nothing) - - - - -
 2 (only when I listen) - - - - - nothing) - - - - -
 3 (for it is nothing
 4 knowing) - - - - -

1 only the words break the silence
 2 **only the words break the silence**
 3 only the words break the silence
 4 **only the words break the silence - - - - -**

1 beyond nothing - - - - - if anything - - - - -
 2 **for it is nothing** **beyond nothing - - - - -**
 3 beyond nothing - - - - - if anything - - - - -
 4 **for it is nothing** **beyond nothing - - - - -**

1 beyond nothing - - - - - nothing...
 2 **nothing - - - - -**
 3 beyond nothing - - - - - nothing...
 4 **nothing - - - - -**
 9/15-18/98

NOTHING MORE

1 There is only now **I** and all the other
2 **There is only now and all**
3 There is only now - - - - -

1 the other nows there is only now - - - - -
2 **the other nows - - - - -**
3 and all the other nows

1 There is only now and all the other nows - - - - -
2 **There is only now and all the other nows**
3 There is only now and all the other nows

1 before nothing after nothing
2 **before nothing - - - - - after nothing - - - - -**
3 nothing before nothing after

1 it flies - - - - - it flies - - - - - time - - -
2 **it rushes** **it rushes**
3 - - - - - time time how how time - - -

1 without a compromise - - - - - it rushes
2 **time** **a compromise - - - - -** **without**
3 without a compromise - - - - - it flies - - - - -

1 And when the tape
2 **a compromise - - - - -** **the tape is at its end**
3 And when the tape

1 how it rushes and when the tape it flies
2 **at its end - - - - -** **it rushes**
3 how it flies and when the tape it flies

1 time - - - - - we improvise
2 **at the end - - - - -** **without a compromise**
3 time without a compromise

1 do not understand - - - - -
2 - - - - - **but do not**
3 understand. - - - - -

III

1 There is only now only now and all the other nows
2 **Life is now is now**
3 How it rushes it rushes

1 and never was nothing - - - - - nothing
2 **and never was before - - - - -**
3 it flies time - - - - -

1 nothing - - - - - There is only now and all the other nows
2 **before before (There is only now and all the other nows)**
3 time

1 nothing before (Life is now and never was)
 2 or after Life is now and never was
 3 without time - - - - -

1 before or after - - - - -
 2 before or after and when the tape
 3 a compromise - - - - - and when

1 how it rushes how it flies time without
 2 is at the end we improvise
 3 the tape is at the end

1 there is - - - - - a compromise - - - - -
 2 - - - - - but - - - - - do not - - - - -
 3 we improvise - - - - -

1 how - - - - -
 2 understand - - - - - and when - - - - -
 3 but - - - - - do not - - - - - understand

1 it flies without a compromise - - - - and never was
2 **only now** **only now** **only now**
3 it rushes without a compromise - - - -

1 it flies - - - -
2 - - - - **only now** **only now** **only now**
3 it rushes nothing before - - - -

1 and never was - - - -
2 **before or after** - - - -
3 There is nothing there is nothing there is nothing

1 without a compromise and when the tape
2 **only now** - - - -
3 there is nothing there is nothing

1 do not understand.
2 **the tape is at the end** **but do not** - - - -
3 we improvise

1 (there is nothing more to say)
 2 **as there is time** ----- **(there is nothing more to say)**
 3 (there is nothing more to say)

1 to say There is nothing more to say
 2 ----- **and breath** to say
 3 and I will say it as long as there

1 to say nothing more nothing more
 2 **there is nothing more** to say
 3 is time and breath to say

1 nothing more -----
 2 **nothing more** -----
 3 there is nothing more to say -----

1
 2 **nothing more** -----
 3 nothing more. -----

V

1 There is only now (only now
2 **How it rushes** **how it flies** **(how it flies**
3 There is nothing - - - - -

1 only now) and all the other nows
2 **how it rushes)** **time** **without**
3 There is nothing more - - - - -

1 There is only now and all the other nows
2 **a compromise** **(There is only now and all the**
3 nothing more to say - - - - -

1 (How it rushes how it flies)
2 **other nows)** **How it rushes how it flies**
3 nothing more - - - - - nothing more

1 nothing before
 2 **to say (There is nothing more to say) - - - -**
 3 to say - - - - There is nothing more to say

1 nothing after Life is now
 2 **time without a compromise**
 3 nothing more and I will say it

1 and never was (and never was
 2 **and when the tape (the tape**
 3 as long as there is time

1 life is now nothing after
 2 **and when without a compromise**
 3 (as long and I will say it

1 nothing before) - - - - - before or after
 2 **time) is at the end**
 3 nothing more) and breath

WONDERING WHY

I

1 I seem to be saying the same things lately - - - - -
2 I seem to be saying the same things
3

1 I seem to be saying the same things lately I'm repeating
2 I seem to be saying the same things lately - - - - -
3 I seem

1 myself over and over again
2 I'm repeating myself - - -
3 to be saying the same things - - -

1 again saying the same things about how suddenly time
2 I'm repeating myself
3 lately - - - - -

1 that time is without existence - - - - -
2 **over and over** again
3 I'm repeating myself - - - - -

1 (that time is without existence) - - - - -
2 **again** about how
3 over and over - - - - - over and over

1 and that there is plenty of time
2 **suddenly time** that time
3 saying the same thing I seem

1 again and again I'm saying the same things
2 **is without existence** - - - - -
3 to be saying

1 Talking about nothing
2 **and that there is plenty** of time
3 the same things lately - - - - -

1 (I seem the same things
 2 **again and again** (to be saying
 3 I'm repeating myself - - - - (I seem the same things
 4 (to be saying

1 I seem to be saying lately
 2 **lately - - - -** to be saying the same things - - - -
 3 I seem to be saying I seem
 4 **lately - - - -**

1 to be saying to be saying I seem to be saying
 2 **I seem** again and again
 3 lately over and over I seem to be saying
 4

1 the same things lately) - - - - about nothing
 2 **I seem to be saying the same things lately) - - - - -**
 3 the same things lately)
 4 **I seem to be saying the same things lately) - - - - -**

1 being nothing about nothing being nothing
2 **I'm saying the same things I'm saying**
3
4

1 which is everything
2 **the same things - - - - -**
3 over and over again
4 **How many times**

1 which is nothing How many times
2 **talking about nothing which is everything**
3
4 **lately - - - - -**

1 lately - - - - -
2 **which is nothing**
3 I seem to be saying
4 **have I spoken such words**

1 have I spoken such words
2
3 the same things lately
4 **and about forgetfulness - - - - -**

1 and about forgetfulness - - - - -
2 **How many times**
3 lately - - - - -
4 **and remembrance - - - - -**

1 (I'm repeating myself
2 **lately - - - - -**
3 I'm repeating myself over and over
4 **products of memory - - - - -**

1 over and over again) and remembrance - - - - -
2 **have I spoken such words**
3 again
4 **which invades me**

1 products of memory
2 **and about forgetfulness**
3 saying the same things lately
4 **constantly**

1 which invades me constantly - - - - -
2 **and remembrance**
3 I'm repeating myself
4 **about death**

1
2 **products of memory** which invades me
3 over and over again
4 **and the improbability of death**

1 about death (many times saying the same thing) - - - - -
2 **constantly** **about death**
3 saying the same thing - - - - -
4 many times **spoken lately**

1 (about how suddenly time) - - - - -
2 (that time is
3 about how suddenly time that time is without existence
4 **about these things**

1
2 **without existence)** and the improbability of death
3 and that there is
4 **and things which rise from these things**

1 and the improbability of death - - - - -
2 many times spoken
3 plenty of time
4 **these things** I seem to be speaking

1 many times spoken lately - - - - -
2 **lately - - - - -** about these things - - - - -
3
4 **lately - - - - -**

1 about these things - - - - -
2 **and things which rise**
3 again and again
4 **wondering why - - - - -**

1 and things which rise from these things - - - - -
2 **from these things**
3 I'm saying the same things - - - - -
4

1 I seem to be speaking lately - - - - - wondering why - - - - -
2 **I seem to be speaking lately**
3 wondering why - - - - -
4 **knowing why - - - - -**

1 knowing why. - - - - -
2 **knowing why.** - - - - -
3 knowing why. - - - - -
4 **knowing why.** - - - - -

II

1 And what has this to do with anything

2

And what has this

3

And what has this to do with anything - - - - -

4

1

and what - - - - -

2 **to do with anything**

has this to do

3

with anything

4 **And what has this to do with anything - - - - -**

1

and who could care

2 **and what**

with anything - - - - -

3

with anything

and who could care

4

has this to do - - - - -

with anything - - - - -

1 I seem to be saying the same things the same things
2 **lately - - - -**
3 I seem to be saying the same things the same things
4 **lately - - - -**

1 and what has this to do with anything We pass
2 **lately - - - -** **and who could care - - - -**
3 and what has this to do with anything
4 **lately - - - -** **and who could care - - - -**

1 passing so suddenly
2 **and who could care**
3 We pass passing
4 **and who could care - - - -**

1 hold on hold on - - - -
2 **I'm repeating myself saying the same thing**
3 so suddenly hold on
4

1 for a moment more
2 over and over again
3 hold on
4 **I'm repeating myself** saying the same thing

1 each moment an eternity
2 saying the same thing
3 for a moment more
4 over and over

1 and each eternity
2 about how suddenly time - - - saying the same thing
3 each moment
4 again saying the same thing

1 the same thing - - - - a moment - - - -
2 - - - - that time is without existence
3 the same thing - - - - an eternity - - - -
4 - - - -

1 and this too I have said

2 **and that there is plenty of time**

3 and each

4 **talking about nothing**

1 again and again

2 **again and again - - - - -**

3 eternity a moment

4 **being nothing - - - - -**

1 and more and more lately

2 **I'm saying the same thing**

3 and this too I have said

4 **(and this too I have said)**

1

2 **talking about nothing - - - - - I know I should know**

3 again and again

4 **which is everything**

1 about the soul
2 **have I spoken such words**
3
4 **about forgetfulness and remembrance - - - - -**

1 and love
2 **and about forgetfulness - - - - -**
3 about loss
4 **products of memory which invades me**

1
2 **and remembrance - - - - -**
3 about the holiness of things
4 **constantly - - - - -** about death

1 which springs from the soul
2 **products of memory which invades me constantly - - - - -**
3
4

1 about hopelessness - - - - -
2
3 about the soul - - - - -
4 **and the improbability of death - - - - -**

1 (So suddenly - - - - -
2 **about death (We pass passing**
3 (So suddenly - - - - -
4 **many times spoken lately - - - - - (We pass passing**

1 hold on)
2 **hold on for a moment more) - - - - - and the improbability of death - - - - -**
3 hold on)
4 **hold on for a moment more)**

1 and discovery
2 **many times**
3 and love which springs from the soul - - - - -
4 **about these things**

1 is there anything more beautiful
2 **spoken lately - - - - -** **about these things**
3
4 **which rise from**

1
2 **which rise from these things - - - - -**
3 about hopelessness and discovery
4 **these things - - - - -**

1
2 **I seem to be speaking lately**
3 Is there anything more beautiful - - - - -
4 **I seem to be speaking lately - - - - -**

1 Is there anything more beautiful
2 **wondering why - - - - -**
3 Is there anything more beautiful - - - - -
4

1 or more strange - - - - -

2

3

4

or more strange - - - - -

knowing why - - - - -

1 and what does this have to do - - - - -

2

3 and what does this have to do - - - - -

4

with anything - - - - -

with anything - - - - -

1 with anything...

2 **with anything...**

3 with anything...

4 **with anything...**

11/04

ROUND AND ROUND

1 I'm waiting for you to enter this room you
2 **In my head is a chorus of crickets who do**

1 will glide across the floor with a greeting
2 **not exist except in my head is a chorus**

1 on your lips and in a joking way if I am writing
2 **of crickets who - - - do not exist**

1 at this poem you will comment on the frequency
2 **except in my head - - - - is a chorus**

1 of my habit of writing poems while waiting
2 **who do not exist except in my heart and in my head**

1 for you that begin with - - - - I'm waiting for you
2 is a chorus of crickets who do not exist except

1 that begin with I'm waiting for you to enter this room
2 in my heart - - - - except in my heart

1 you will glide across the floor with a greeting
2 and in my head is a chorus of crickets

1 on your lips and in a joking way if I'm writing at
2 who do not exist except in my heart and in my head

1 this poem you - - - will comment
2 is a chorus of crickets who do not exist except

1 on the frequency of my habit of writing poems
2 in my head and in my head is a chorus

1 while waiting for you because - - dear lady
2 **of crickets** who do not exist - - - - - **except**

1 when you enter the room and see me writing
2 **in my heart** and in my head is a chorus of crickets

1 while gazing in your direction you are certain - - - - -
2 **their voices relentless** who do

1 beyond any doubt that I'm writing a poem
2 **not exist** except in my head and in my head

1 that begins with - - - - - I'm waiting for you - - - - -
2 **(that begins with - - - - -** waiting for you)

1 to enter this room you will glide across the floor
2 **is a chorus of crickets** their voices relentless

1 with a greeting on your lips with
2 **who do not exist** **except in my heart** **and in my head**

1 a greeting and in a joking way
2 **is a chorus of crickets** **broadcasting a pure message**

1 you will comment on the frequency the frequency of my habit
2 **their voices relentless** **relentless**

1 of writing poems while waiting for you
2 **who do not exist** **except in my heart- - - - my heart**

1 that begin with and it's true I may well be writing a poem
2 **and in my head** **is a chorus of crickets**

1 about the loss of passion
2 **broadcasting a pure message** **their voices relentless**

1 from the lives of so many and its rebirth in the lives
2 **who do not exist except in my heart**

1 in the lives of so few - - - - (a chorus of crickets)
2 **and in my head in my head is a chorus of crickets**

1 I may be writing about some political action
2 **an anthem rising broadcasting a pure message - - - their voices**

1 so insignificant an event as to deserve
2 **relentless who do not exist except in my heart**

1 immortality through its resurrection in my poem - - - -
2 **and in my head is a chorus**

1 or I may be carving a poem of protest
2 **of crickets an anthem rising broadcasting**

1 and in a joking way if I am writing
2 **except in my heart and in my head is a chorus of crickets**

1 on this poem you will comment on the frequency
2 **can you hear them an anthem rising**

1 of my habit of writing poems that begin with and there we are
2 **broadcasting a pure message - - - their voices relentless - - - - -**

1 returning from the ending to the beginning - - - - -
2 **who do not exist except in my heart**

1 and we begin as we end all endings from beginnings
2 **and in my head is a chorus of crickets**

1 and beginnings from endings - - - - - so that one
2 **Do you understand? Do you understand?**

1 becomes the other in the process of passages
2 **can you hear them can you hear them**

1 and your assumption that when you enter a room
2 **can you hear them an anthem rising**

1 and see me gazing in your direction - - - pencil in hand
2 **broadcasting a pure message**

1 writing at a poem I am probably writing a poem
2 **their voices relentless who do not exist**

1 that begins with - - - - I'm waiting for you
2 **except in my heart and in my head**

1 to enter this room to enter this room
2 **is a chorus of crickets - - - - Do you understand?**

1 you will glide across the floor with a greeting on your lips
2 **(you will glide across the floor) can you hear them**

1 and in a joking way if I am writing
2 **an anthem rising broadcasting a pure message - - - -**

1 you will comment on the frequency of my habit
2 **their voices relentless who do not exist (you will**

1 of writing poems of writing poems - - - - -
2 **comment on the frequency of my habit - - - - - except in my heart**

1 that begin with - - - - - that begin with - - - - -
2 **and in my head is a chorus of crickets**

1 is probably correct because often in the past you have entered a room with a greeting on
2 **(is probably correct because often in the past you have entered a room**

1 your lips gliding across the floor to find me working at a poem that begins with - - - -
2 **with a greeting on your lips)**

1 (an anthem rising their voices relentless)
2 **can you hear them broadcasting a pure message**

1 I'm waiting for you to enter this room - - - -
2 **who do not exist - - - - except in my heart**

1 you will glide across the floor with a greeting on your lips
2 **(you will glide across the floor with a greeting on your lips)**

1 and in a joking way if I am writing at this poem
2 **is a chorus of crickets can you hear them**

1 you will comment on the frequency of my habit
2 **an anthem rising broadcasting a pure message**

1 of writing poems - - - - - while waiting for you - - - - -
2 **their voices relentless - - - - -**

1 and here you are - - - - - who do not exist - - - - -
2 **and here you are** **who do not exist...**

Circa 1985

AND I AM HERE

I

1 And I am here and here is now
2 **And I am here** and I am here - - - - -
3 And I am here

1 the short now the long now
2 **and here is now - - - - -** **the short now**
3 and I am here and here

1 all the other nows - - - - - and there is nothing else
2 **the long now**
3 is now the short now

1 only now
2 - - - - - **all the other nows** **and there is nothing else - - - - -**
3 the long now

1 eternal and momentary
2 **only now**
3 all the other nows and there is nothing else - - - - -

1 The now of now
2 **eternal and momentary the now of now**
3 only now eternal and momentary

1 and I am here - - - - -
2 **and I am here.**
3 the now of now and I am here - - - - -

II

1 There is nothing else
2 **The now of now eternal and momentary**
3 ending as we begin

1 we know this - - - - - past and future
2 **only now**
3 beginning as we end a birth and a death

1 can only exist in present time
2 **and there is nothing else - - - - -**
3 This is known - - - - -

1 and present time is now This is known
2 **and all the other nows - - - - -**
3 and present time is now

1 each moment a birth
2 **the long now the short now**
3 in present time - - - - - can only exist

1 and a death - - - - - (we know this) beginning as we end
2 **is now and here**
3 past and future we know this

1 ending as we begin -----
2 **and I am here.**
3 There is nothing else -----

III

1 And I am here and here is now
2 **There is nothing else**
3 But that was then and then is now

1 the short now
2 **we know this ----- past or future can only exist**
3 and what will be

1 the long now and I am here
2 **in present time ----- there is nothing else**
3 will be now (and I am here)

1 (but that was then) and here is now
2 **(and then is now) we know this - - - - -**
3 but that was then

1 the short now the long now
2 **and present time is now**
3 Never enough time never any time

1 and all the other nows and there is nothing else
2 **This I know**
3 only now and all the other nows - - - - -

1 only now
2 **each moment (but that was then)**
3 but that was then and then is now - - - - -

1 eternal and momentary
2 **a birth and a death - - - - -**
3 and then is now and then is now

1 the now of now - - - - -

2 **beginning as we end**

3 and what will be will be now - - - - -

1 as we begin - - - - -

2 **ending as we begin** - - - - -

3 we begin.

IV

1 And I am here and here is now there is nothing

2 **And I am here and here is now** - - - - -

3 There is nothing else we know this

1 else we know this - - - - -

2 **but that was then and then is now**

3 but that was then and then is now - - - - -

1 but that was then was then
 2 **and then is now** and then is now - - - - is now but that
 3 but that was then

1 but that was then - - - -
 2 **and then is now** this I know - - - -
 3 and then is now and I am here

1 am here - - - - ending - - - - never enough time
 2 **as we begin** beginning - - - -
 3 as we end never

1 never any time - - - -
 2 **never any time** past and future - - - -
 3 enough time the other nows - - - -

1 and I am here - - - - and here is now the short now
 2 **and I am here** and here is now
 3 and I am here but that was then

1 and here is now - - - - -

2 **we know this** **we know this**

3 was then and then is now - - - - -

1 and here is now and I am here - - - - - here

2 **there is nothing else**

3 but that was then

1 the short now the long now

2 **past and future** **can only exist** **in present time**

3 and what will be

1 we know this

2 **and present time is now - - - - -**

3 will be now - - - - - we know this never enough time - - - - -

1 and there is nothing else - - - - - only now - - - - -

2 **beginning as we end**

3 never any time - - - - -

1 eternal and momentary

2

3

only now - - - - -

ending as we begin - - - - -

the now of now - - - -

the now of now - - - -

1 and all the other nows...

2 and all the other nows...

3 and all the other nows...

Punta Banda, Baja California

11/27-29/04