

Charlene from Big Data

for voice, accordion, clarinet in Bb, and electronics

Olly Sellwood
2021

for Eva Zöllner and Heather Roche

Set-up Instructions

Equipment:

- > laptop running Max/MSP
- > this Max patch and samples: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4gq7lcjafxlnqdh/AAampG-jnlBI4YsJX5ndiRFja?dl=0>
- > soundcard
- > two high quality speakers that match the volume of the acoustic instruments and fit under the performers' chairs
- > two MIDI footpedals. The footpedals shouldn't make sounds when depressed/released.
- > one microphone for the vocalist
- > P.A. system

Place the laptop and soundcard out of sight of the audience. Place one speaker under the accordionist's chair and the other under the clarinetist's chair.

Routing

- > vocal microphone to laptop
- > MIDI footpedals to laptop
- > laptop/soundcard to stereo speakers

Electronics

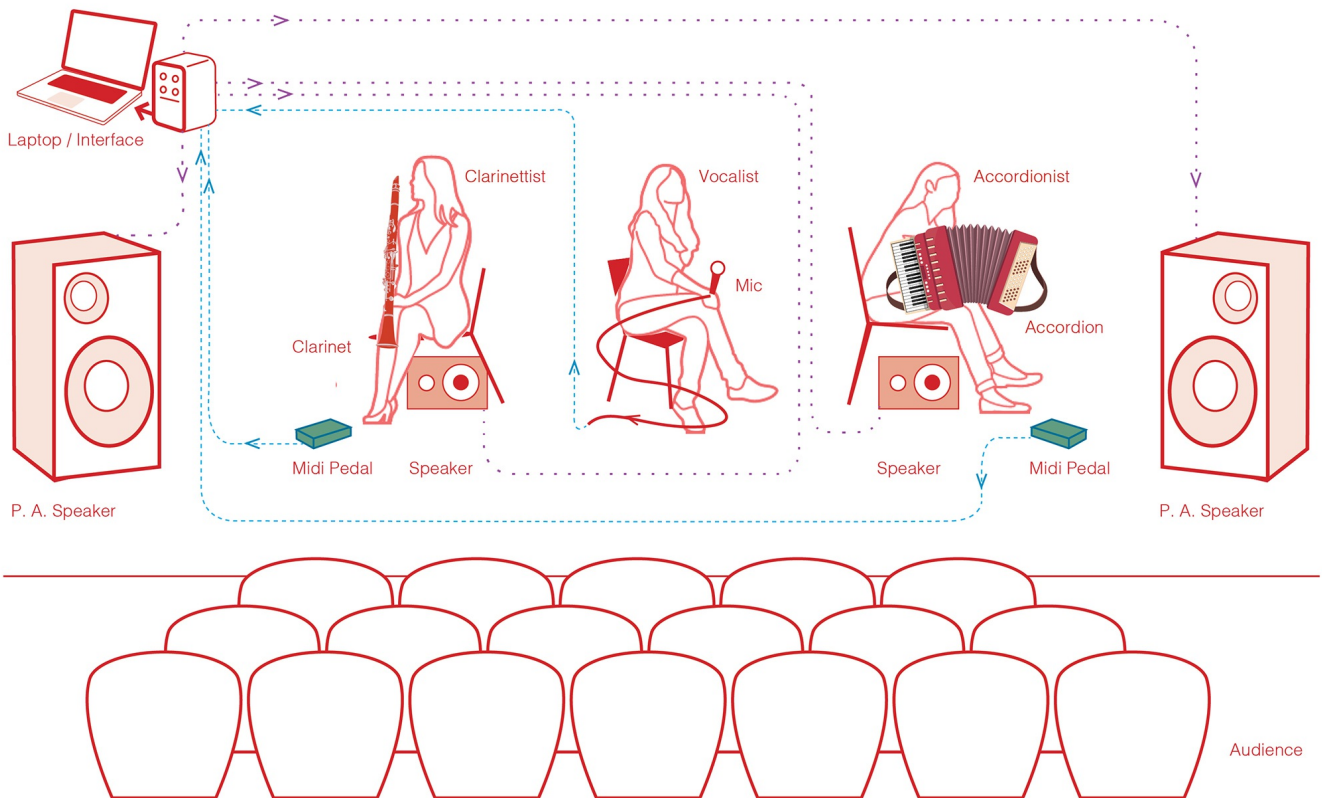
- > open the Max patch
- > set the audio drivers for your soundcard
- > switch on the audio
- > adjust the volume of the samples so that the first number of samples match the mezzo-piano dynamic over the played clarinet and accordion parts
- > if necessary, use the EQ settings to calibrate the sound for the speakers
- > the microphone is auto-tuned via Ableton. Open the Ableton file and set the volume of the microphone on the audio interface or P.A. system. The microphone is the only audio routed to the P.A. system.



Samples

- > the clarinetist has 107 samples
- > the accordionist has 85 samples
- > once the MIDI footpedal is depressed, the sample will play in its entirety. The durations of the footpedal markings are not important.

Stage Set-up



Voice

> ideally, the vocal part would be performed by a non-specialist singer. This activates the auto-tune more and adds a less-trained vocal quality.

- > the vocal part is a combination of sung and spoken phrases.
- > the vocalist may be any gender (transpose into a suitable octave).
- > the vocalist is routed through live auto-tune audio processing.
- > the vocalist sings the notated pitches in the score and speaks the boxed text.

Text

Original microfiction by Rose Biggin & Keir Cooper

I think everything got out of hand, when the smoothies started getting friendly. My carton of non-dairy milk substitute had a cartoon glass of non-dairy milk substitute with a moustache and three friendly white drops issuing from the top, and a speech bubble that said, *put me in your bones!!!!*

But when things started getting personal I decided I'd had enough. I needed to speak with Big Data, but I didn't know where to begin. I typed "I would like to speak to a Big Data representative" into google, pressed search and hoped it would reach them. Then I held my phone in front of me and said loudly, *I would like to speak to a representative of Big Data please.*

That evening, I received a call from an unknown number.

A voice said, *Hello, this is Charlene from big data. How can I help you today?*

She continued, *Before we proceed any further I will need to ask you a quick security question.*

I said, *You're asking me?*

She said, *Which Showergel do you feel best encapsulates the need for freedom?*

I said the first one I could think of and she said, *yes, that's correct, that's what we thought you'd say.*

Now I could explain my situation. I told them I was feeling targeted.

Charlene said, *Thank you very much. Feedback is extremely important.*

Then she said, *Can I call you back if we have any more questions?*

Thank you, I said, but I really don't know when I'll have the time.

She said, *You're mostly free on Wednesdays, and hung up.*

I looked again at the cartoon milk and pondered my unknown future.

Score

Score in C

1 ♩ = 94

Match volume of samples

Clarinet in Bb

Pedal (Cl.)

Voice

Accordion

Pedal (Accord.)

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

Match volume of samples

10

Cl. *p* 3 3 *mp* 5 *p* 3 3 *mp* 5 *p*

Ped. (Cl.) 10 12 14

Accord. 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Ped. (Acc.) 4 6 8 10

14

Cl. 3 3 3 3 3 3 **2** *p*

Ped. (Cl.) 15 16 17 6/4 4/4 18

Voice I think ev-
mf

Accord. 3 3 3 3 3 3 6/4 4/4 *p*

Ped. (Acc.) 12 14 16 6/4 4/4 17

19

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

19 20 21 22 23

Voice

ery thing got out of hand When the smooth- ies star-ted get-ting frien

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

18 19 20

24

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

24 25 26 27 28

Voice

dly My car-ton of non dai - ry milk sub-sti-tute had a car-toon

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

21 22

29

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

Voice

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

29 30

23 24 25

with a moustache and three friendly white drops
issuing from the top, and a speech bubble that said,

glass of non-dairy milk sub-sti - tute Put me

34

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

Voice

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

31 32 33 34 35

26 27

in your bones But when_ things star - ted get - ting per - son - al I de-ci

39

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

36 37

Voice

ded I'd__ had e-nough

I needed to speak with Big Data, but I didn't know where to begin. I typed "I would like to speak to a Big Data representative" into google, pressed search and hoped it would reach them. Then I held my phone in front of me and said loudly,

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

28 29

45

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

38 39 40

Voice

I would like to speak to a rep-re - sen-ta-tive of__ big dat - a please

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

30 31

49 Stop note at the word 'from' 3 Pause until reverb tail has ended *sim.*

Cl. *mf* *pluss.* *pluss.* *sim.*

Ped. (Cl.)

41 42

Voice

That evening, I received a call from an unknown number

Accord. *mf* Pause until reverb tail has ended *sim.*

Accord. *mf* *sim.*

Ped. (Acc.)

32 33 34

55 4 *mp*

Cl. *pluss.* *pluss.* *mp*

Ped. (Cl.)

43 44 45

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

35 36 37

61

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

mp

47 49 51 53

39 41 42 44

65

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

55 57 59 61

47 48 49

69

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

63 65 66 68

51

73

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

mp

70 72 74 76

53 55 56 58

77

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

78 80 82 84

61 63 65

81

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

Accord.

86 88 89

6/4 4/4

5

85

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

91 92 93 94 95

Voice

A voice said, He - llo this is Char- lene from big dat - a How can

mf

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

66 68 69 70 71

90

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

96 97

Voice

I help you to-day?

She continued, Before we proceed any further I will need to ask you a quick security question. I said, You're asking me?

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

72 73 74

95

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

Voice

She said, Which Showergel do you feel best encapsulates the need for freedom?
I said the first one I could think of and she said, yes, that's correct, that's what we
thought you'd say.

Now I could ex -

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

98

75

100

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

Voice

plain my sit - u - a - tion I told them I was fee - ling tar - ge - ted

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

99

100

101

102

76

77

78

79

104

Cl.

Voice

Charlene said, Thank you very much. Feedback is extremely important. Then she said, Can I call you back if we have any more questions?
Thank you, I said, but I really don't know when I'll have the time. She said, You're most

Accord.

109

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

103 104 105 106

Voice

ly free on Wed nesdays and hung up. I looked a - gain at the

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

80 81 82 83 84

113

Cl.

Ped. (Cl.)

107

Voice

car - toon milk and pon - dered my un - known fu - ture

Accord.

Ped. (Acc.)

85