

N is for Nolana and Nycandra

duo sonata for improvising & co-authoring
'rhythm section' or continuo instrumentalists



Ben Leeds Carson 2010

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The sections below can be played in any order, and with the omission of one or more melodic notes.

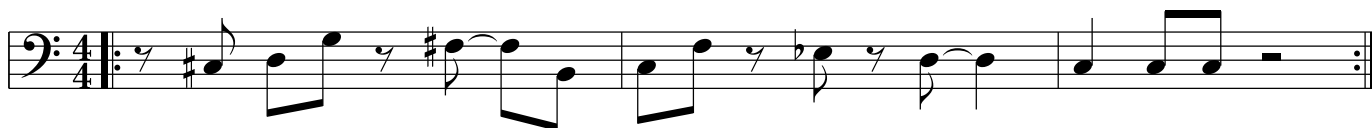
The included text may be spoken unintelligibly, and softly, or it may be merely thought.

At least one section marked “Nycandra” and another marked “Nolana” must be played.

Each iteration of the work should consist of co-authoring musicians who reshape the work in the context of the performance.

The premier of the current version was the product of co-authorship with guitarist Johnny Montgomery Carson.

Riff



Nycandra 1

Two staves of musical notation in piano style, 4/4 time. The first staff is in treble clef and the second in bass clef. The piece starts with a boxed measure number '4'. The notation includes chords, single notes, and rests. A second boxed measure number '8' appears at the beginning of the second staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Nycandra 2

12

Musical notation for measures 12-15. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 12 starts with a whole rest. Measure 13 contains a half note G4 and a dotted quarter note Bb4. Measure 14 contains a half note G4 and a dotted quarter note A4. Measure 15 contains a half note G4 and a dotted quarter note Bb4.

Chord progression: G⁷ sus 4, F^{Δ7}, F^{7b5} F⁴⁻³/E^b

16

Musical notation for measures 16-19. Measure 16 contains a half note G4 and a dotted quarter note A4. Measure 17 contains a half note G4 and a dotted quarter note Bb4. Measure 18 contains a half note G4 and a dotted quarter note A4. Measure 19 contains a half note G4 and a dotted quarter note Bb4.

Chord progression: A^{b-}, B^{b7} sus 4

20

Musical notation for measures 20-23. Measure 20 contains a half note G4 and a dotted quarter note A4. Measure 21 contains a half note G4 and a dotted quarter note Bb4. Measure 22 contains a half note G4 and a dotted quarter note A4. Measure 23 contains a half note G4 and a dotted quarter note Bb4.

Chord progression: C^{#o} C^{7b5} - /B, B^{b7} sus 4, F^{Δ7b5}

24

Musical notation for measures 24-27. Measure 24 contains a half note G4 and a dotted quarter note A4. Measure 25 contains a half note G4 and a dotted quarter note Bb4. Measure 26 contains a half note G4 and a dotted quarter note A4. Measure 27 contains a half note G4 and a dotted quarter note Bb4.

Chord progression: E⁻⁷ sus 4, D⁷ sus 4, A⁻⁷ sus 4, A^{bΔ7b5}

Two nights near seaside, you know,
Really, they are pretending that I am still
lingering on the verge of adulthood—
treating me as though I
am, how shall I say it? young?—but still these
little gatherings are quite the
same—they have a consistency.

Very much the same as when, upon returning to the old house, I could expect to
have all the nostalgic toys and games in my room,
all the hikes and the chores pre-planned in my
absence, all my old high-school lunch nemeses (having been
given whatever good news may occasionally have been inferred
from my rare phone calls), readied at once to nod, as we do.

(They surely would not resent anything anymore.)

I could enjoy warm relationships with neighbors of my
past, without worrying much about what they would become
in any sort of future.

Nolana 1

28

The musical score for NOLANA 1, measures 28-31, is presented in two systems. The first system contains measures 28 and 29, and the second system contains measures 30 and 31. The music is written for piano in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes treble and bass staves with various notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

And by “just exactly what you want,” what do I mean? I mean you don’t want anything else.

Napete 1

Musical score for Napete 1, measures 32-48. The score is written for piano in 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). Measure numbers 32, 36, 40, 44, and 48 are indicated in boxes above the first staff of each system. The music features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are several trills and triplets marked with a '3' and a slur. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score ends with a final cadence in measure 48.

Well even now, that's how things are, always, at the coast: cousins and cousins' friends just get lined right up in to greet me at appropriate times and in appropriate places.

Alonso

Musical score for Alonso, measures 52-64. The score is written for piano in 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. Measure numbers 52, 56, 60, and 64 are indicated in boxes above the treble clef staffs. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and chords. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score concludes with a final chord in measure 64, which is held over into the next system.

Who is this boy, who never had to ask what was coming up next?

Who saw faces lit up, and enjoyed them,
without having to remember them with any individual dignity?
Choir directors and math-team coaches appeared now out of nowhere,
smiling 20 years on crossing paths with us
at payday loan centers and perhaps
around behind the old mill, where there are
picnic tables, and an obstacle course.

Nolana 2

The musical score for "Nolana 2" is presented in four systems, each starting with a measure number in a box: 68, 72, 76, and 80. The music is written in 4/4 time and consists of piano accompaniment for the right and left hands. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system (measures 68-71) features a melodic line in the right hand with a long note in measure 69 and a sixteenth-note run in measure 71, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment. The second system (measures 72-75) continues the melodic development in the right hand with a long note in measure 73 and a sixteenth-note run in measure 75. The third system (measures 76-79) shows further melodic progression in the right hand, including a dotted quarter note in measure 77 and a sixteenth-note run in measure 79. The fourth system (measures 80-83) concludes the piece with a final melodic phrase in the right hand and a sustained accompaniment in the left hand.

Napete 2

84



88

92



96



100



104

108



112

