

VEDITZ

**for percussionist/ASL interpreter
(with film)**

for Christopher Clarino

Larry Polansky
Fairlee, VT,
July - August 2018

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notes

VEDITZ is to be performed with the film "The preservation of the sign language by George M. Veditz," made in 1913 and reprinted in 1934. This film is widely available on the internet and also commercially available on DVD. The film should be projected to the audience, and may or may not be visible in some way to the performer (either on a separate screen, or through performer position).

The performer must be proficient in American Sign Language.

The tempo of the score is quarter-note = 60 throughout. Measures in the score denote time spans (e.g. a 6/4 measure is 6 seconds). The score follows the film, and should be generally and closely, but not exactly synchronized with the "text" (ASL) of the film. The performer should have some method of synchronization, either by viewing the film during performance, or a click track.

Instrumentation/orchestration is left to the percussionist. A wide sonic palette is preferred, consisting of pitched instruments (probably mallet instruments, though electronic and other kinds of pitched instruments are possible), non-pitched instruments, and non-pitched instruments operated by the feet.

The performer is asked to speak, sign, fingerspell, play (from notation), and improvise in a variety of combinations. All instances of speaking and/or signing are notated as such.

x-noteheads denote non-pitched instruments, but are notated on the staff to roughly indicated "pitch" or "brightness" levels.

In pitched instruments, the notation should be considered as "pitch class" notation. In other words, any passage can be played in a register appropriate to the instrument chosen by the percussionist, but the register of a given passage should be as consistent as possible.

Each of the 15 sections of the piece have a gamut of pitches, which should be used as a reference for all pitched improvisation. When improvising, those pitches are primarily employed (though other pitches may very occasionally be used).

Acknowledgements

Dr. Carol Padden's excellent translation of the film was used as the primary source for this work, along with an equally excellent (but markedly different) translation by my friend and teacher, Dr. Dennis Cokely. I am deeply indebted to both of these scholars for their work, not just on the Veditz film but for their scholarship and activism in ASL studies. I freely inserted some of my own translation ideas into the piece. Dr. Padden's foundational essay, "Translating

Veditz" (*Sign Language Studies*, 4:3, Spring 2004, 204–260) was an indispensable resource in the writing of this piece.

Christopher Clarino requested this work, and is uniquely qualified to perform it, and I am extremely grateful to him for inspiring and collaborating on the project.

Larry Polansky
Fairlee, VT,
July – August 2018
8/16/18 11:33 AM

VEDITZ

for christopher clarino

polansky
8/20/18 9:49 AM

1 0:00

1
12/4

[CREDITS]

Improvise quietly, sparsely (unpitched),
perhaps rolling on a few instruments

2 0:14

2

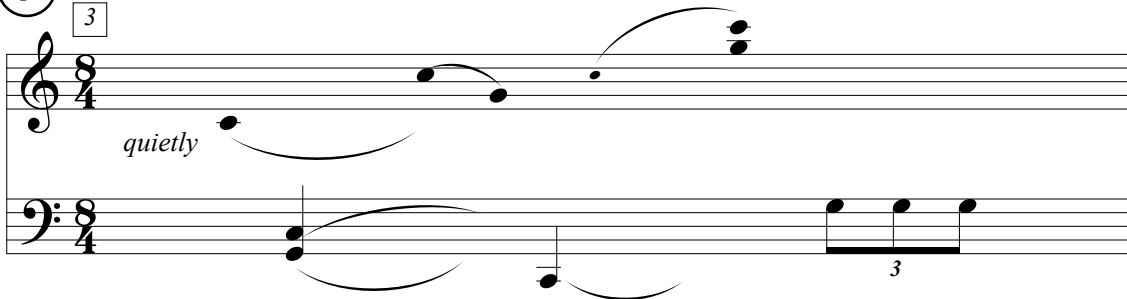
[Veditz still]

continue improvising

3 0:18 C-G

3

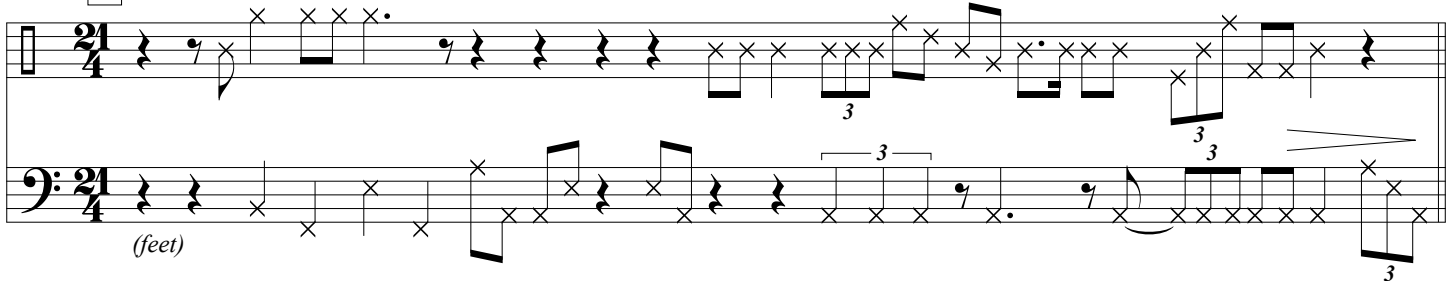
quietly



4 0:26 C-G-E

4

(feet)



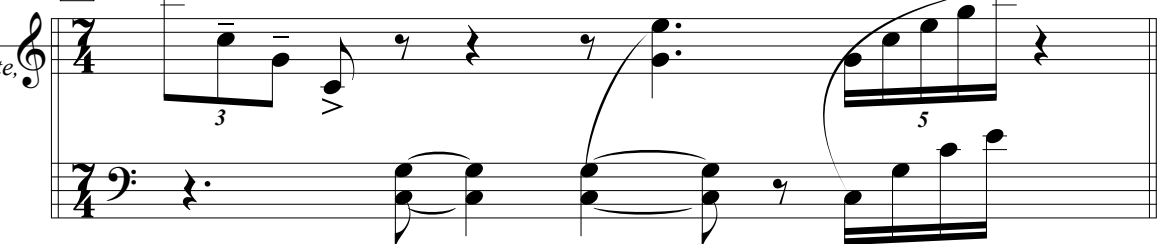
5 FS

BANQUETS

13/4 speak: freely translate,
and improvise
on any instruments

6

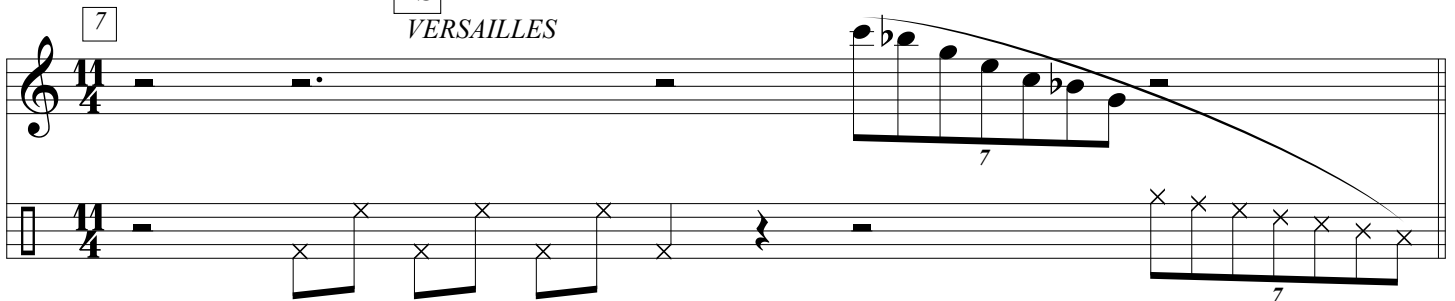
speak and play



FS

VERSAILLES

7



8 *Improvise (non-pitch)* 9 *continue improvising, and speak* 10 *Veditz still*

5 1:27 **C-E-G-Bb**

11 *speak and play* 12 *speak and sign*

(feet) *(feet)*

feet, or cymbal, gong, etc.
let ring

13 14 *quietly*

(feet) *small triangle, finger cymbal, etc.*

6 1:54 **C-D-E-G-Bb**

15 *(don't speak)* 16 *speak and sign*

C-E-G-Bb *(feet)*

any sound, vary freely

17 *speak and sign* **FS** 18 *sign and play (feet)*

don't play **LANGUAGE OF SIGNS**

7 2:23 **C-D-E-F#-G-Bb**

19 *speak and play* 20 *speak and improvise*

f

21 *continue improvising, don't speak* 22 *speak and sign*
continue improvising (hands and feet)

23 *(don't speak)* 24 *speak and improvise*
(from previous idea)

noisily

25 *speak and sign* 26 *sign (only)*

8 3:20 C-D-E-F#-G-Ab-Bb

27 *speak and sign* 28 *speak*
(freely translate) 29 *speak (only)* 30 *improvise*
(improvise) *(don't speak)*

31 32

33 *improvise* 34
one quiet event

9 3:54 C-D-Eb-F#-G-Ab-Bb

35 *speak and play* 36

speak: freely translate, and improvise on any instruments

37 *(don't speak)* 38 *Speak and improvise*

39 *Speak and sign* 40 *(don't speak)* 41 *Speak and improvise* 42 *Speak and sign*

43 *improvise (don't speak)* 44 *Speak and improvise* 45 *let ring* let ring

46 **FS** *FALSE PROPHETS* 47 *Speak and improvise* 48 *sign (only)* 49 *-*

50 *Speak: freely translate, don't play* 51 *Speak: freely translate, and improvise on any instruments* 52 *Speak and sign*

10 5:55 C#-D-Eb-F#-G-Ab-Bb

53 *Speak and sign (freely interpret)* 54 *Speak and sign (improvise w/ feet)* 55 *Speak and improvise* 56 **FS** *ORAL* *Improvise (non-pitch)*

57 *Speak and sign* 58 *Speak and sign*

11 6:28 C#-D-Eb-F-G-Ab-Bb

59 *speak and improvise* 60 *speak and sign*

(pitch, gamut)

15:12

let ring

(gradually disintegrate)

12 6:48 C#-D-Eb-F-G-Ab-B

62 *speak: freely translate, don't play* 63 **FS** THE PEETS 64 THE DUDLEYS 65 THE ELYS

66 **FS** THE BALLARDS 67 *speak: freely translate, and improvise on any instruments* 10

different instruments

different instruments

one hand

(feet)

68 *speak and sign* 69 *speak and sign*

(feet)

VEDITZ

FS

SIGN LANGUAGE

VEDITZ

14 9:38 C#-D-F-G-B

90 let all notes ring

91 speak and improvise

(feet)

92 FS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

93

94 FS FUND

(feet or hands, or both)

95 improvise

96

97 speak and play

let ring

(feet)

98 sign (only) the entire "measure" [but use the namesigns of the three men] [FAY, HOTCHKISS, MACGREGOR]

99 speak and sign

(feet)

G-B-D-F (don't speak)

100

(freely make dyads from current gamut: G-B-D-F)

101 speak and sign (feet)

mf (steady, with spoken text) (vary low/high sounds)

102 *5/4* speak and sign || 103 *6/4* speak and sign || 104 *5/4* speak: freely translate, don't play || 105 *4/4* improvise (don't speak)

106 (don't speak) || 107 *5/4* speak and sign, don't play (freely interpret and translate)

(feet)

108 *3/4* improvise (don't speak) || 109 *2/4*

110 *3/4* || 111 *6/4* speak: freely translate, don't play || 112 *8/4* speak: freely translate, don't play

(feet)

113

(feet)

let ring

let ring

114 **FS** PRICELESS

115 Veditz still
cymbal roll

15 11:54 G-B-D

116 + + + +
(damp slightly) 3

117 **FS** RACE OF PHARAOHS

118 **FS** THAT KNEW NOT JOSEPH

(feet)

(feet)

119

120

121 speak and sign

122

3

p something delicate

sf

(feet)

"for they can - not sign"

123 *loud, raucous*
7/4 speak: freely translate,
 don't play

124 *5*
7/4 (wood)

7/4 (metal) (bass drum)

7/4 (feet)

125 *5/4* **FS** ENEMIES OF THE
 SIGN LANGUAGE

126 *9/4* **FS** (and speak) THEY ARE ENEMIES
 OF THE TRUE WELFARE

127 *2/4* **FS** (and speak) OF THE DEAF

128 *6/4* Free, unmeasured, 61", improvise freely with the film

129 *12/4* **G-D** speak and play
 gently

12/4 *p* *pp*

130 *1/4* speak and sign
 "Beautfiul"

131 *6/4* **FS** SIGN LANGUAGE AS THE

132 *6/4* **FS** NOBLEST GIFT

133 *13/4* speak, with film
 (don't bow)

"God has given to deaf people"

VEDITZ

*Sections, measure numbers, measure lengths, “translated text”
(text is largely taken from Carol Padden translation, but with a few changes taken
from Dennis Cokely, and LP)
8/9/18 11:18 AM*

1. **12 Credits** [SECTION 1]
2. **4 Veditz standing still** [SECTION 2]
3. **8 Friends and fellow deaf mutes:** [SECTION 3]
4. **21** The French people love **de l’Epee**. Every year on the occasion of his birthday they gather together at [SECTION 4]
5. **13 banquets** and festivities to show their appreciation that this man was born on this earth.
6. **7** They journey to his gravesite in
7. **11 Versailles** and place flowers and green wreaths on his grave
8. **3** to show their respect
9. **4** for his memory.
10. **2** [Veditz still]
11. **8** They loved him because he was their first teacher. [SECTION 5]
12. **6** But they loved him more
13. **11** for being the father and inventor of their beautiful sign language.
14. **2** [Veditz still]
15. **7** For the last 33 years, with eyes filled with tears and hearts broken, the [SECTION 6]
16. **13** French deaf people have watched this beautiful
17. **4 language of signs**
18. **5** snatched away from their schools.
 - a. [This passage is signed in ASL order, this translation is English order]
[No pause before next section]
19. **7** For the last 33 years, they have strived [SECTION 7]
20. **7** and fought for the restitution of signs in the schools
21. **6** but for 33 years their
22. **9** teachers have cast them aside and refused to listen to their pleas.

23. **7** But their teachers would much rather listen to the worthless,
24. **9** cruel-hearted demands of people that think they know all about
25. **3** educating the deaf
26. **9** but know nothing about their thoughts and souls, their feelings, desires and
needs.

27. **4** It is like this in **[SECTION 8]**
28. **7** Germany also. The German deaf people and the French deaf people
29. **7** look up at us American deaf people with eyes of
30. **2** jealousy. *[still]*
31. **5** They look upon us Americans as a
32. **6** jailed man chained at the legs might look upon a man
33. **2** free to wander at will.
34. **1** *[still]*

35. 4 They freely admit that the **[SECTION 9]**
36. **8** American deaf people are superior to them in matters of intelligence and
37. **10** spirituality, in their success in the world, in happiness. And they
38. **6** admit that this superiority can be credited to —
39. **10** what? To one thing, that we permit the use of signs in our schools.
40. **3** *[still]*
41. **8** The French deaf people base their inferiority on one thing,
42. **8** the fact that oralism must be taught in their schools.
43. **5** They have eliminated fingerspelling; they have eliminated signs.
44. **3** *[still]*
45. **13** But we American deaf are rapidly approaching some bad times for our schools.
46. **7** **False prophets**
47. **5** are now appearing with news to the people
48. **11** that our American means of teaching the deaf are all wrong.
49. **2** *[still]*
50. **10** These men have tried to educate people and make people believe
51. **4** that the **oral(ism?) method** *[break in film here]*
52. **4** is really the one best means of educating the deaf.
a. [Veditz: “is really best”]

53. 5 But we American deaf know, **[SECTION 10]**
54. **3** the French deaf know,
55. **3** the German deaf know that in
56. **8** truth the **oral** is the worst.
a. *[method, not signed]*
57. **8** Our beautiful sign language is now

a. *[Veditz pauses]*

58. **6** beginning to show the results of their attempts.
59. **5** They have tried to banish signs from the schoolroom *[SECTION 11]*
60. **7**, from the churches and from the earth.
61. **8** Yes, they have tried, so our [FS?] sign language is deteriorating.
62. **7** From olden years, the masters of this sign language, *[SECTION 12]*
63. **4** **the Peets**,
64. **5** **the Dudleys**,
65. **3** **the Elys**,
66. **8** **the Ballards** are rapidly disappearing.
67. **10** And we, in past years, loved these men.
68. **6** They had a precise command of sign language.
69. **12** They could communicate to us using only signs and we could understand.
70. **13** But fortunately, we have several masters of our **sign language** *[SECTION 13]*
71. **2** still with us.
72. **7** **Edward Miner Gallaudet**
73. **8** learned this sign language from his father,
74. **1** [NAMESIGN] **Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet**
- a. *(not FS, Padden supplies full name).*
75. **4** There are several others, like
76. **7** **Dr. John B. Hotchkiss**
77. **1** then NAMESIGN),
78. **8** **Dr. Edward Allen Fay** (then NAMESIGN),
79. **6** **Robert P. MacGregor** (then NAMESIGN)
80. **4** who are still with us.
81. **10** And we want to preserve the signs as these men now use them,
82. **6** to keep and pass on to
- 83. 5 coming generations.**
84. **5** There are many men now alive
85. **6** who have learned their signs from men like these.
86. **6** Many have tried to preserve and pass on their signs.
87. **7** But there is one known means of passing this on, through the use of
88. **6** **moving picture films.**
89. **2** still
90. **3** Indeed, *[SECTION 14]*
91. **1** our

92. **7 National Association of the Deaf**
93. **3** has raised a
94. **1 fund**
95. **5** of \$5000 for this purpose.
96. **2** [still]
97. **6** We have made a number of films.
98. **16** We have films of Edward Miner Gallaudet, of **Edward Allen Fay**, of **John B. Hotchkiss** and **Robert MacGregor** [all namesigns] and many others.
99. **10** I regret that we not have \$20,000,
100. **8** for we could have used it all.
101. **6** If we had this amount of money, we could have
102. **5** performance in sign language,
103. **6** sermons in sign language,
104. **5** lectures in sign language.
105. **4** And not only would we
106. **6** American deaf enjoy the benefits of this, but
107. **5** no — deaf people in
108. **3** Germany, in England
109. **2** in France
110. **3** in Italy
111. **6** would also see these moving picture **films**
112. **8** [and see... repeated?].
113. **9** Fifty years from now, these moving picture films will be
114. **4** **priceless**.
115. **2** [still]
- 116.2** A new *[SECTION 15]*
- 117.5** **race of pharaohs**
- 118.6** **that knew not Joseph”**
- 119.8** are taking over the land and many of our American schools.
120. **2** [still]
121. **5** They do not understand signs
122. **5** for they cannot sign.
123. **7** They proclaim that signs are worthless
124. **7** and of no help to the deaf.
- 125.5** **Enemies of the sign language,**
- 126.9** **they are true enemies of the true welfare**
- 127.2** **of the deaf.**

128. **61** As long as we have deaf people on earth, we will have signs. And as long as we have our **films**, we will be able to preserve our beautiful sign language in its ancient purity.
129. **12** It is my hope that we all will love and guard our
130. **1** beautiful
131. **6 sign language as the**
132. **4 noblest gift**
133. **13** God has given to deaf people. [BOWS]