Assignment #2: Song
(half the class)

Compose a song, using one of the three texts given below. By “song,” I mean whatever you think that means, has meant, could mean.

The only other constraints (besides using one of the texts supplied) are:

1) it should be 5 minutes or shorter
2) you take no part in the performance (it should be, ideally, for others in the class). Your job, come performance time, is to sit in the audience. Your score must try and communicate what you want to hear. Try to (seriously) take performability, score readability, and logistics into account.

Scores should be written by hand. Use a ruler. Recopy (several times). Space things as carefully as you can. Ask Ma’ayan and I about any questions you have, feel free to show us preliminary copies so we can make suggestions.

As usual, I am not suggesting that there is any given “form” or “tradition” that you need to adhere to. Again, as usual, I am asking you to approach the assignment in good faith, musical seriousness, and think through the assignment deeply. Do your best to do something interesting and important to your own work. And, as usual, I encourage you to leave your comfort zone as much as possible. You may decide how to approach the text you choose, but you must use one of the texts supplied, not your own.

This assignment is for half the class, because of performance time. However, everyone is welcome to write one (why not?), and we will, of course, perform as many as we can in the time we have. It is likely that we will be able to perform more than half the class’s pieces. However, we will perform each piece twice in class.

All scores are due to Ma’ayan no later than 5 p.m., January 31st (we’ll start performing them on Wednesday, Feb. 1)
Texts
(I will tell you their provenance after the assignments are turned in)

Text 1
De lah de lah de lah le lah
Me fiddle de diddle de wiligy quah bo.
De lah de lah de lah del lah
Me fiddle di diddle de wiligy quah bo.

Ting e te ding O me de sling
Quility O naty qua bo
te who who who who who who
Te hah hah hah hah hah.

De lah de lah de lah le lah
Me fiddle de diddle de wiligy quah bo.
De lah de lah de lah del lah
Me fiddle di diddle de wiligy quah bo.

Text 2
Who in the rainbow can show the line where the violet tint ends and the orange tint begins? Distinctly we see the difference of the colors, but when exactly does the one first blendingly enter into the other? So with sanity and insanity.

Text 3 (some excerpt should be used)
Soak beans overnight after having washed them. In the morning change the water and add kombu (seaweed). Also, if you wish, rosemary or cumin. Watch them so that they don't cook too long, just until tender. Then pour off most of the liquid, saving it, and replace it with tamari (or Braggs). But taste first: you may prefer it without tamari or with very little. Taste to see if it's too salty. If it is, add more bean liquid. Then, if you have the juice from a roasted chicken, put several teaspoons of this with the beans. If now, add some lemon juice. And the next time you have roast chicken, add some of the juice to the beans. Black turtle beans or small white beans can be cooked without soaking overnight. But large kidney beans or pinto beans, etc., are best soaked. (So are the others.) Another way to cook beans which has become my favorite is with bay leaves, thyme, garlic salt and pepper. You can cook it with some kombu from the beginning. I now use the "shocking method." And now I've changed again. A Guatemalan idea: Bury an entire plant of garlic in the beans without bothering to take the paper off. Cook for at least three hours.