

# Charlene from Big Data

for voice, xylosynth, percussion, piano, and keyboard

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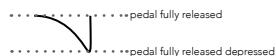
*arranged for Riot Ensemble (May 2023)*

## Instrumentation

- > xylosynth + foot pedal
- > Roland SPD-SX + orchestral bass drum
- > voice
- > piano
- > MIDI keyboard + foot pedal

## Notation

- > the two foot pedals function as pitch modulators. Each pedal, when depressed, lowers the pitch incrementally to the maximum of -50 cents. The length of the bend is represented by the length of the symbol.
- > the symbol is notated like this:  Each application of the pedal should fully depress and the pedal.



## Voice

- > the vocal part is a combination of sung and spoken phrases.
- > the vocalist may be any gender (transpose into a suitable octave).
- > the vocalist sings the notated pitches in the score and speaks the boxed text.
- > general timings are given through the placement of the boxed text in the bars.

## Set-up Instructions

### Equipment

- > one microphone for the vocalist.
- > a laptop running the Ableton Live 11 performance patch, available here:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/to0mpgsapdrelip/AADknED32UNjuHR90fakX32La?dl=0>
- > two piano-sustain style footpedals
- > a convertor between voltage and MIDI
- > a MIDI keyboard
- > MIDI expression software, available here: <https://www.audiofront.net/index.php>
- > samples for the Roland SPD-SX, available here:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0ub6fa7e8fm1wsm/AAD9GvEMbwud2gHWJHIVH4LHa?dl=0>

### Routing

- > the xylosynth is connected via USB or MIDI to the laptop
- > the MIDI keyboard is connected via USB or MIDI to the laptop
- > both the xylosynth and MIDI keyboard use piano-sustain style footpedals. These should be connected to the laptop via the voltage-to-MIDI convertor
- > samples are loaded into the Roland SPD-SX

### Samples

- > there are five samples of individual piano notes, available here:
- > the samples are non-dynamic and should be set to playback at a similar volume to match the piano.

### Switching between A + B

- > both the xylosynth and keyboard need to be able to switch between two settings (labelled A + B on the score). To do this, one note on either instrument can be assigned to make the switch, or an additional footpedal can be used to ensure this operation.

## Drum pad Key

- > assign the samples as follows:

Drum pad

The diagram shows a musical staff with six piano keys. Above each key is a small black dot representing a sample. To the right of the staff, the samples are listed with their corresponding piano notes:

- 1 [G5].wav
- 2 [F5].wav
- 3 [A4].wav
- 4 [G#4].wav
- 5 [G3].wav
- 6 [F#3].wav

## 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.

**1**  $\text{♩} = 94$

A setting selection

Xylosynth: Measures 1-6 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Dynamics:  $\text{mp } 5$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{mp } 5$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{mp } 5$ ,  $\text{p}$ . Articulation: slurs, grace notes.

Drum pad: Measures 1-6 show sustained notes.

Voice: Measures 1-6 show sustained notes.

Piano: Measures 1-6 show eighth-note chords. Dynamics:  $\text{mp } 5$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{p}$ . Articulation: slurs, grace notes.

Keyboard: Measures 1-6 show eighth-note chords. Dynamics:  $\text{mp}$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{p}$ . Articulation: slurs, grace notes.

una corda (throughout)

Xyl.: Measures 7-12 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Dynamics:  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{tr}$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{tr}$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{p}$ . Articulation: slurs, grace notes.

D. pad: Measures 7-12 show sustained notes.

Pno.: Measures 7-12 show eighth-note chords. Dynamics:  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{tr}$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{tr}$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{p}$ . Articulation: slurs, grace notes.

Kbd.: Measures 7-12 show eighth-note chords. Dynamics:  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{tr}$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{tr}$ ,  $\text{p}$ ,  $\text{p}$ . Articulation: slurs, grace notes.

2

13

Xyl. *mp* 5 *p*

D. pad

Voice

To bass drum

*p*

Pno.

*pp*

*mf*

I think ev-

Kbd.

*p*

19

Xyl.

B.D.

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

Pno.

Kbd.

25

Xyl.

B.D.

Voice  
My car-ton of non-dai - ry milk sub-sti-tute had a car-toon glass of non-dair - ry milk sub-sti-tute

Pno.

Kbd.

31

Xyl.

B.D.

Voice  
dampen  
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 star - ted

Pno.

Kbd.

37

Xyl.

B.D.

Voice

I needed to speak with  
Big Data,  
but I didn't know  
where to begin.

get - ting per - son - al I de-ci - ded I'd had e-nough

Pno.

Kbd.

42

Xyl.

B.D.

Voice

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 rep-re-

Pno.

Kbd.

Stop note at the word 'from'

Xyl. 47

B.D.

Voice  
sen - ta - tive of big dat - a please dampen  
That evening, I received a call from an unknown number

Pno.

Kbd.

Stop note at the word 'from'

Stop note at the word 'from'

3

Xyl. 51 A Pause until reverb tail has ended\* sim. sim.

Pno. mp

Pno. 3 mf mp sim. sim.  
Ped. Ped. Ped.

Kbd. A Pause until reverb tail has ended\* sim. sim.

57

Xyl. sim.

B.D. To drum pad

Pno. sim. 3 5 mp

Pno. 3 5 mp

Kbd. sim. 3 5 mp

A [the top line plays one-shot samples unaffected by the pitch modulation]

63

Xyl. 3 3 5 3

D. pad 3 3 5 3

Pno. 5 3 3 3 3

Kbd. 3 3 3 3 3

68

Xyl. (Measures 68-73): The Xylophone part consists of six measures. It starts with eighth-note patterns in measure 68, followed by eighth-note pairs in measure 69, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 70, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 71, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 72, and eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 73. Measure 73 includes a dynamic marking of  $\text{f}$  and a tempo marking of  $\text{5}$ .

D. pad (Measures 68-73): The Double Bass Pad part consists of six measures. It starts with sustained notes in measure 68, followed by eighth-note pairs in measure 69, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 70, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 71, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 72, and eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 73.

Pno. (Measures 68-73): The Piano part consists of six measures. It starts with eighth-note pairs in measure 68, followed by eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 69, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 70, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 71, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 72, and eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 73.

Kbd. (Measures 68-73): The Keyboard part consists of six measures. It starts with eighth-note pairs in measure 68, followed by eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 69, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 70, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 71, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 72, and eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 73.

74

Xyl. (Measures 74-79): The Xylophone part consists of six measures. It starts with eighth-note pairs in measure 74, followed by eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 75, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 76, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 77, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 78, and eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 79. Measure 74 includes a dynamic marking of  $\text{mp}$  and a tempo marking of  $\text{5}$ .

D. pad (Measures 74-79): The Double Bass Pad part consists of six measures. It starts with eighth-note pairs in measure 74, followed by eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 75, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 76, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 77, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 78, and eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 79.

Pno. (Measures 74-79): The Piano part consists of six measures. It starts with eighth-note pairs in measure 74, followed by eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 75, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 76, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 77, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 78, and eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 79.

Kbd. (Measures 74-79): The Keyboard part consists of six measures. It starts with eighth-note pairs in measure 74, followed by eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 75, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 76, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 77, eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 78, and eighth-note pairs with grace notes in measure 79.

79

Xyl. (Treble clef) plays eighth-note patterns with grace notes. D. pad (Bass clef) provides harmonic support. Pno. (Treble and Bass clefs) plays eighth-note chords. Kbd. (Treble and Bass clefs) provides harmonic support. Measure 84 ends with a dynamic instruction "To bass drum".

**5**

85

Xyl. (Treble clef) plays eighth-note patterns with grace notes. B.D. (Bass clef) provides harmonic support at dynamic ppp. Voice (Treble clef) sings lyrics: "A voice said, He - llo this is Char - lene from big dat - a How can I help". Pno. (Treble and Bass clefs) provides harmonic support at dynamic pp. Kbd. (Treble and Bass clefs) provides harmonic support. Measure 85 ends with a dynamic instruction "p" and a tempo marking "Rit.".

Xyl. 91 # A

B.D. dampen

Voice

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?

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,

Pno.

Kbd.

Xyl. 98 # B

B.D.

Voice

that's correct, that's what we thought you'd say.

Now I could ex-plain my sit-u-a-tion

I told them I was fee-ling tar-ge-ted

Charlene said

Pno.

Kbd.

104 A

Xyl.

B.D. dampen

Voice

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 - ly free on Wed

Pno.

Kbd.

110

Xyl.

B.D.

Voice

and hung up. nesdays I looked a - gain at the car-toon milk\_\_ and pon-dered my un-known fu - ture

Pno.

Kbd.