

voice mem(ent)o

Michael Shun

for Annetta Whetham and Caleb Rose (AKA Clarinetta); Divergent Studio 2021

# voice mem(ent)o

in loving memory of my grandmother

## Transposing Score

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**Slow** ♩ c. 60

Mezzo-soprano

resonant hum;  
no vibrato  
*n* < *mp*     *mf* 3

mm\_\_     dee dee dee     dee dee dee     dee dee dee dee

dial tone     dialing

air sound     fast exhale

Clarinet in B $\flat$

*p*     *mp*     *mf*

hollow     pale; no vibrato

M-S.

4

rolled "rr"s  
OR lip trills  
(*mf*)

"Please leave your message after the beep."

ringing

Cl.

(*mf*)     *f*



13 *mp* *ff* *ff* *brief*

M-S. when you have thh (shh) *violent exhale*

Cl. *highest possible pitch* *brief* *ff*

15 *mf* *p* *pp* *n < p* *resonant hum; no vibrato*

M-S. Thank you! Bye, dear! Thank you. Bye, dear. mm\_\_\_ *dial tone*

Cl. *grad.* *air sound, sim.* *fast exhale* *p* *pale; no vibrato*

*mp > pp*

*voice mem(ent)o* was a speed-writing project written for Annetta Whetham and Caleb Rose during Longy's 2021 Divergent Studio. The project officially started for the studio while I was driving back home from a wedding, so the time pressure was already incredible. Serendipitously, while my partner was driving I was cleaning out my phone messages and found a voicemail dated November 2020. It was of my grandmother, who passed away February 2021. I had spoken with her between the two dates, and have the obligatory holiday greeting cards from her and her husband. But this was the last recording of her voice that I have of her. It has been transcribed as the following:

"Hi, Beth, this is Mom. Could you give me a call when you have the time? Thank you! Bye, Dear!"

Instead of calling my mom's phone, she had called mine by mistake, but listening to it again made me focus on the nuance of her voice. The transcribed message is set in such a way that mimics her inflections, and the pitch material is derived from the sounds you hear when on the phone; whether white noise feedback, or dial tones.

The voicemail, and thereby this piece, is a quirky keepsake to remember her wonderful life.