

Kari Väkevä

# p(M)

for solo Voice and electronics

(2025)

**Total duration:** ca. 6'00"

The piece *p(M)* is written for solo Voice and electronics, but the soloist part may be performed by other human voice types as well. The soloist part is quite free and aleatory in regard of timing. The piece is based on an unfinished, some three decades earlier, draft Minx 'n' Millepede for mezzo-soprano and harpsichord.

Excluding the few seconds AI welcome words, the electronics part of the work *p(M)* is written with C++ and a synthesis software built by the author.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERFORMANCE

The piece may be performed by Soprano, Mezzo-soprano, Contralto (loco); or Tenor (8va bassa or loco).

The entire solo voice part is written in the form of cadenza, with only few synchronization points with the electronics. The tempo and rhythm are very free (senza misura). Timbral freedom is encouraged.

The electronics part has verbal descriptions like "Chorus singing", "E-Guitar", etc., to help the soloist to relate the graphics to the tape's sonority, and that way follow the tape's progress. A time-stamp is also given for the synchronization cue events, to quickly locate them; and also to allow the use of a stopwatch timer (if the performer decides to use such).

## EXPLANATION OF NOTATION

Accidentals affect only those notes which they immediately precede.

Accidentals are not repeated on tied notes unless the tie goes from line to line or page to page. Accidentals are not repeated for repeated notes unless one or more different pitches intervene.

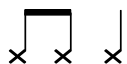
, // ^ ☺ Unmeasured pauses (in increasing time duration order)



Cue from electronics to voice

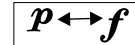
Spoken  
(Minx and Millipede.)  
A Minx and a Millipede.

A 'spoken' box asks the soloist to recite the text given inside the box. Parenthesised text is to be spoken slightly quieter and/or with a different tone, as if said by a narrator in a calm way.

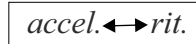


X-shaped noteheads indicate a style closer to speaking than singing.

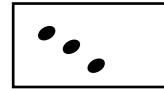
## EXPLANATION OF NOTATION (CONTINUED)



Fluctuating dynamics within the given range



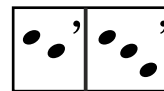
Fluctuating tempo (speed up/slow down freely)



Improvise on the given material (stop at indicated time)



Repeat the given material (stop at indicated time)



Repeating material of unspecified order. Start with any box, repeat the boxes in any order (also possible to sometimes duplicate a repeat of a certain box randomly).

0"-1+"  
,

Pause for the range from zero to one second, or rarely longer (the plus sign stands here for 'rarely more').

mm \_\_\_\_\_

The text *mm* stands for humming (i.e. mouth closed).



Notes with indeterminate duration

0:03 0:30 ... 6:00

[0:35] [1:05] ... [5:05]

(electronics) The Tape's time-stamp at the current time location. The full duration of the tape is 6'00". The boxed times are to be synchronized with the voice part by the soloist. However, the time-stamps in square brackets are given just for reference, and do not need synchronization with the soloist part.

LINK TO THE TAPE PART FOR REHEARSING PURPOSES:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/pjlaeksj5mh2syosvh2y77/AF0JbWjemQR3WOPsv16bLTU?rlkey=saryyq2v28584ll6c1f4su5ku&dl=0>

*p(M)* for Solo voice and electronics

Kari Väkevä (2025)

Tempo *Ad Lib. (quickly enough / abbastanza veloce)*

*senza  
misura*

~3"

Spoken

(She said:)  
Magnetohydrodynamics,  
Malice aforethought,  
Malpighiaceae,  
Malted milk,  
Managerial maneater.

0:00

0:03

*p*

*mf*

*dim.*

*sotto voce*

*gliss.*

12"

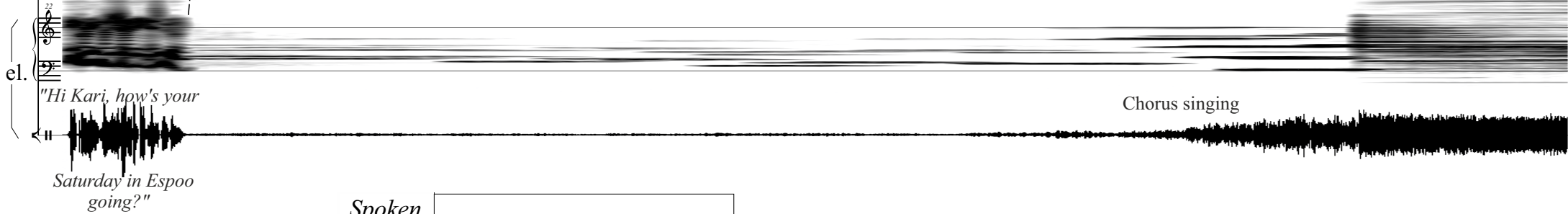
mm

Ah

Man in the moon.

0:30

E-Guitar



Spoken

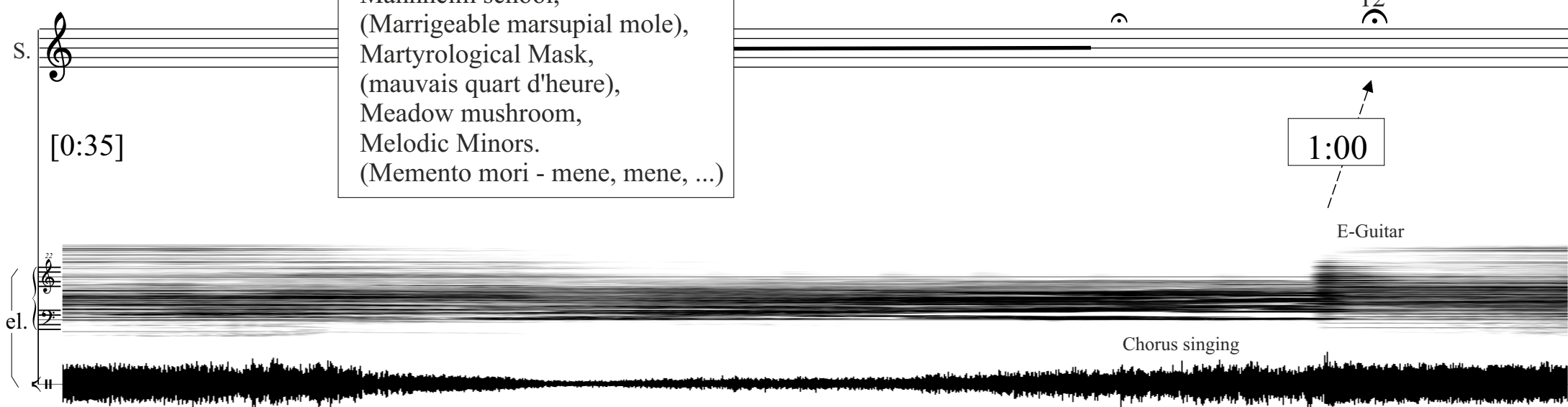
Mannheim school,  
(Marrigeable marsupial mole),  
Martyrological Mask,  
(mauvais quart d'heure),  
Meadow mushroom,  
Melodic Minors.  
(Memento mori - mene, mene, ...)

[0:35]

12"

1:00

E-Guitar



S. *Spoken*

[1:05]

Menispermaceous meniscus,  
Meretricious mermaid,  
Mesomorphic Merrymaking,  
Mesmerizable milli-Metermaids.  
(Meow, Meow!)

10"

1:30

E-Guitar

Chorus

S. *Spoken*

[1:35]

(Minx and Millipede.)  
A Minx and a Millipede.

*mf* ↔ *f*

Mil-li-pede

Change pitch ad lib.

Stop at the  
E-Guitar  
sounds

12"

2:00

E-Guitar

+Harpischord

Improvise on the given material.

Accel. ↔ rit.  
Legato ↔ stacc.  
 $p \leftrightarrow f$

Keep repeating ad lib. with a freely undulating center pitch

Mil - li-pede Millipede

Millipede

Stop at the Harpsichord sounds

Ah!

3:05

Harpsichord

Chorus

S.

el.

[2:05]

Improvise on the given material, in any order.

0"-1+"  
0"-1+"

Mil-li Mil-li-pede

cresc. poco a poco - - - - -

mf

Stop at the Harpsichord sounds

3:55

Harpsichord

Chorus

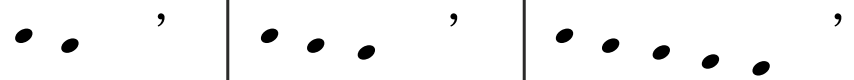
S.

el.

[3:10]

Arrrgh! —

Improvise on the given material, in any order.

S. *p*   
Mil-li      Mil-li-pede      Mil-li Mil-li-pede

[4:00]

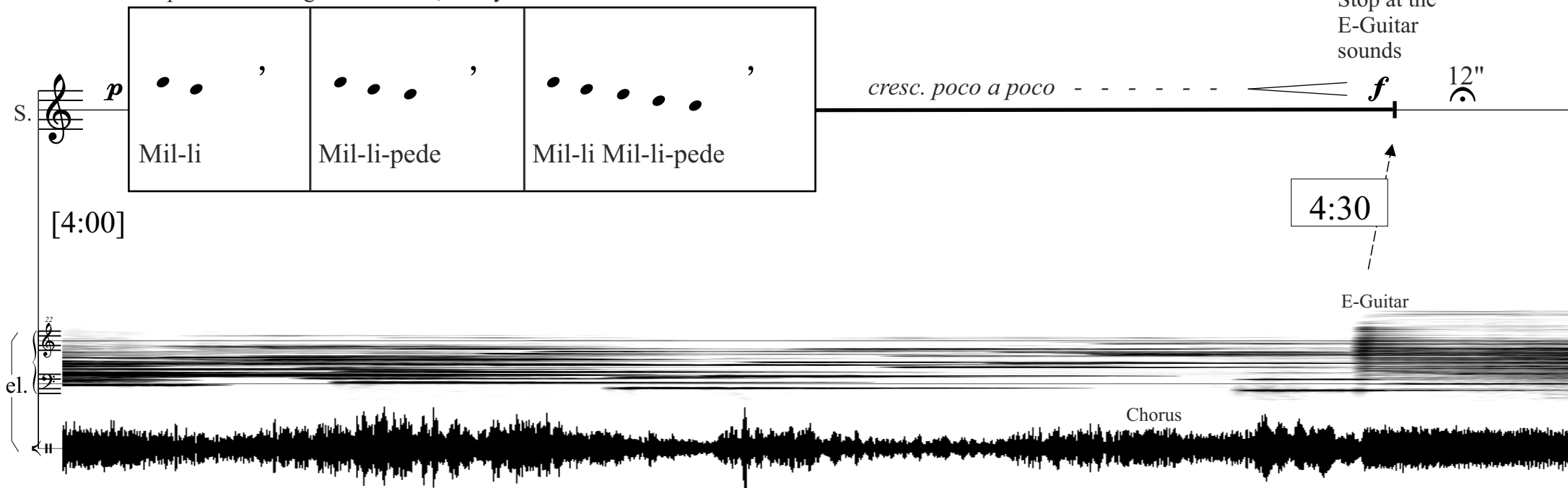
*cresc. poco a poco* - - - - - *f* 12"


Stop at the E-Guitar sounds

4:30

E-Guitar

Chorus



S. *Spoken*   
Microclimatic mickeymouse,  
Microminiaturized Middleman,  
Mixolydian Minotaur,  
Mediterranean Mockmoon,  
Monochromatic Moneymaker.  
(Monumental Moratorium.)

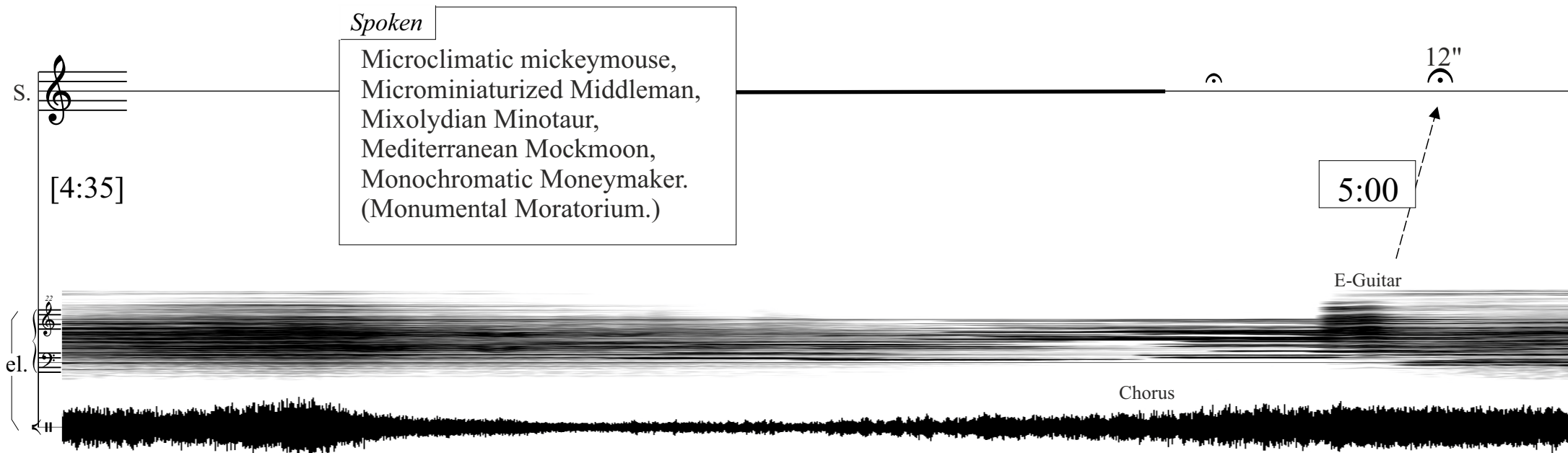
[4:35]

12"

5:00

E-Guitar

Chorus



*Spoken*

Mouth-to-mouth Movement,  
 Muroid Mudmap,  
 (Multiplication murmur),  
 Muscular Misconduct,  
 (Mr. Mustard),  
 Mysterious Muzzy Muu-muu Myrrh.  
 (Mythomaniac, she said.)

[5:05]

*mp* ↔ *p*

2"-5"

she said, Mythomaniac

Stop when the  
Tape has faded  
away.

6:00

S.

el.

**Credits:** This score document was written with LilyPond and edited with CorelDRAW. The audio track and sonogram images captured from Audacity.