

Wild Living

for six voices

by Hassan Estakhrian

December 2020



Wild Living (2020)

- I. Cave Swallow
- II. Song Sparrow
- III. Bornean Frogmouth
- IV. Song Sparrow reprise
- V. Elf Owl

By Hassan Estakhrian

Originally composed for Variant 6

About the piece:

Wild Living (2020) was composed based off of field recordings of birds and other wild life. I listened through these field recordings at a very slow playback rate (as less as a tenth of normal playback speed). Much like the speech-to-song illusion where points of speech can sound like a melody, I discovered interesting moments of music that I then approximated to pitches and used as musical motives for the piece.

Note to the performers:

Don't hesitate to channel the animal within you when performing this piece. I highly encourage that you reference the musical motives from the field recordings (I will gladly provide them to you). The text is written using IPA.

Wild Living

I. Cave Swallow

Hassan Estakhrian (2020)

♩ ≈ 60, Lush and sinusoidal, head voice in upper range for blending

Score for six voices (Voice 1 to Voice 6). The music is written in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: ha o ε a o ha o ε a o ha o ε a.

Score for six voices (Vce. 1 to Vce. 6). The music is written in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: o ha o ε a o wa. The instruction "soft, shimmering" is written above the first voice part.

8

Vce. 1
 dI-dl-a o ε

Vce. 2
 dΛt da dΛt da dΛt da

Vce. 3
 yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy

Vce. 4
 dΛt da dΛt da dΛt da dΛt da

Vce. 5
 yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy

Vce. 6
 hε o

12

Vce. 1
 dI-dl - a dI-dl - a dI-dl-a dI-dl-a

Vce. 2
 dΛt da dI-dl - a dI-dl - a dI-dl-a dI-dl-a

Vce. 3
 yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛ yΛ yΛ yΛ yΛ yΛ yΛ yΛ yΛ

Vce. 4
 dΛt da dΛt da dΛt da dΛt da dΛt da

Vce. 5
 yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛy yΛ yΛ yΛ yΛ yΛ yΛ yΛ yΛ yΛ
 with some fuzz (generated at front of mouth)

Vce. 6
 dfu dfu dfu dfu dfu dfu dfu dfu dfu

17

Vce. 1
f
 dɪ - dl - a dɪ - dl - a dɪ - dl - a

Vce. 2
f
 dɪ - dl - a dɪ - dl - a dɪ - dl - a

Vce. 3
f
 yʌ yʌ yʌ yʌ yʌ dʌt da

Vce. 4
f
 dʌt da dʌt da yʌ haʊ wæ_

Vce. 5
f
 yʌ yʌ yʌ yʌ yʌ dʌt da

Vce. 6
f
 dfu dfu dfu dfu yʌ

20

Vce. 1

Vce. 2

Vce. 3
 dʌt da dʌt da dʌt da

Vce. 4
 haʊ wæ_

Vce. 5
 dʌt da dʌt da dʌt da

Vce. 6

Wild Living

III. Bornean Frogmouth

Hassan Estakhrian (2020)

A delicate call, rubato, at your own tempo, vary the duration of pause, repeat about 7 times, then wait 10 seconds and repeat again. Do this until low Bb in Vce. 6 and then move on to next part.

♩ ≈ 60

Vce. 1

ha u ha u ha u a yi

Lingering, rubato, at your own tempo, brief glide to pitches, breathe when necessary, no rush, begin during first halfnote rest of Vce. 1's 2nd time through, repeat until low Bb in Vce. 6 and then move on to next part.

♩ ≈ 50

Vce. 2

u

Hum on half-notes at your own tempo, alter between these four pitches, start about 5 seconds after Vce. 4, continue until low Bb in Vc. 6 and then move on to next part.

♩ ≈ 110

Vce. 3

mm ...

Hum on half-notes at your own tempo, alter between these four pitches, start 5 seconds after Vce. 5, continue until low Bb in Vc. 6 and then move on to next part.

♩ ≈ 90

Vce. 4

mm ...

Hum on half-notes at your own tempo, alter between these four pitches, start while Vce. 2 sings the last pitch of their line (Ab), continue until low Bb in Vce. 6 and then move on to next part.

♩ ≈ 70

Vce. 5

mm ...

Begin after Vce. 2 is on the 3rd cycle of their phrase inbetween the C^b and B^b. Sing at your own tempo, vary the duration of pause before repeating. Sing phrase 5 times then move on to next part.

♩ ≈ 80

Vce. 6

ə ə

mm → a

u u → a

mm → a

mm → a

mm → a

ə əm → a

Wild Living

IV. Song Sparrow Reprise

Hassan Estakhrian (2020)

♩ = 72

Voice 1

Voice 2

Voice 3

Voice 4

Voice 5

Voice 6

du breathe as needed

yAy yAy

du

p breathe as needed

yAy yAy

du

du

5

Vce. 1

Vce. 2

Vce. 3

Vce. 4

Vce. 5

Vce. 6

accel.

du

yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy yAy

du

du

du

First part

Whistle (if unable to whistle, sing an octave lower on "do"), stagger breath with voices 1 & 3, move on to next part when lowest voice moves to F#.

Vce. 1

(do)

Alternate between A, B, and C in any order, move on to next part when lowest voice moves to F#.

Vce. 2

ya _____ i - ya _____

i - ya _____

Repeat A, once about every 4-8 seconds sing B and then return to A, stagger breath with voices 1 & 4, move on to next part when lowest voice moves to F#.

Vce. 3

do do

Repeat A, once about every 4-8 seconds sing B and then return to A, stagger breath with voices 1 & 3, move on to next part when lowest voice moves to F#.

Vce. 4

do do

Vce. 5 Double Vce. 6 either in same register or an octave higher (see Vc. 6 instructions below).

Sing phrase 3 times and then move on to next part. Sing "u/m" where one side of the mouth is closed on an "m" and the other is open to "u".

Vce. 6

u/m _____ (or fry)

Second part

(growing in intensity)

Continue to whistle, listen for change in lowest voice to move on to next part.

(to)

Alternate between D, E, and F in any order, listen for change in lowest voice to move on to next part.

ya _____ i - ya _____

i - ya _____

Repeat, listen for change in lowest voice to move on to next part.

to

Repeat, listen for change in lowest voice to move on to next part.

to

Double Vce. 6 either in same register or an octave higher (see Vc. 6 instructions below).

Sing phrase 3 times and then move on to next part.

u/m _____ (or fry)

(whistle, or sing on "do" an octave lower)

(Northern Cardinal)

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Vce. 1 *pf* *ff* lots of "r" *mp*
ra ra rΛ rΛ dΛ da

Vce. 2 *mp* *ff* *mp*
i ya ya ya ya ra ra rΛ rΛ dΛ da

Vce. 3 *fp* *ff*
dodododododododo dododo dododo dodo do do do do ra ra rΛ rΛ

Vce. 4 *fp* *ff* *mp*
dodododododododo dododododo dodo dodo do do do do ra ra rΛ rΛ dΛ

Vce. 5 *fp* *ff* *mp*
u u do dodododododododo dododo do do do do ra ra rΛ rΛ dΛ da

Vce. 6 *fp* *ff*
u u do do do do do do we a ra ra rΛ rΛ

16

Vce. 1 *p* *f*
u i a

Vce. 2 *p* *f*
u u i a

Vce. 3 *mp* *p* *f*
dΛ da u i a

Vce. 4 *p* *f*
da u i a

Vce. 5 *p* *f*
u u i a

Vce. 6 *mp* *mfp* *f*
dΛ da u i a

