Divided Attention

for trombone, fixed, and unfixed media

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1

READ THIS FIRST

Stage set-up
- Omnidirectional microphone (within 6 inches of trombone bell when in standing center stage playing position)
- Single music stand (center stage)
- Chair with arm rests (back and stage right of music stand)
- Small table (stage right of stool or chair) with...
  - ...a computer (preferably a laptop) running MaxMSP
  - ...an empty glass (placed in front of the computer--in view of audience)
  - ...a pitcher half-filled with water (placed to the side of the glass, away from the chair)

Entrance of trombonist
- Rag in back pocket (hidden from view of audience)
- Should walk with trombone to standing center stage position (behind music stand)

Score Interpretation
- Gray numbers are page indices and should not be interpreted
- Any vague text and graphics (e.g. page 7) are intentionally unclear for the performer to interpret as he/she sees fit
- Page 2 is the page sequencing to be followed by the performer
  - Vertical lines ONLY indicate sequencing and synchronization
    - Timing is to be improvised by the performer
    - The lines are evenly spaced for clarity; they SHOULD NOT be performed at regular intervals
  - Electronics Triggers refers to “buttons” to be activated in MaxMSP
- DO NOT OVERACT (especially pages 7 and 8)
  - The intention of these pages is to control the distractions that naturally occur within a typical performance
- The timing on pages 3-9 should not be interpreted as a traditional score (represented horizontally).
  - This is especially true of page 9, which is a probability graph representing an outside-time structure.

Electronics Triggers:

Voices | Processing | Beat | Ending

*Spit Valve Commentary

Trombone - Pages

3
or
4

integrate
5

integrate
3

integrate and
4

integrate and
5

6

and
6

integrate

and

exit

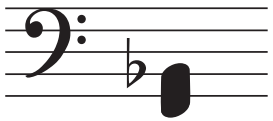
and
7

8

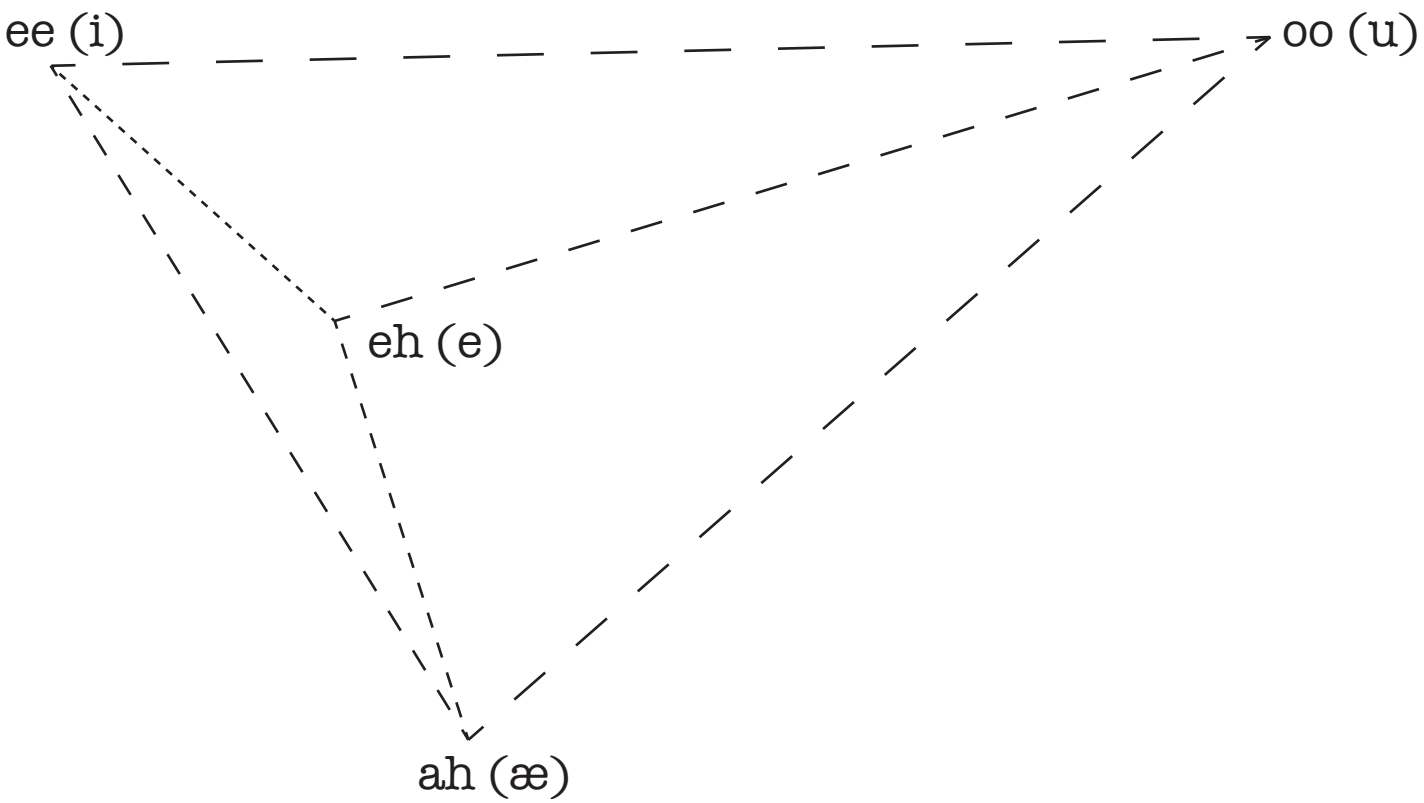
and
9

*Spit Valve Commentary triggered after specified instruction on page 7

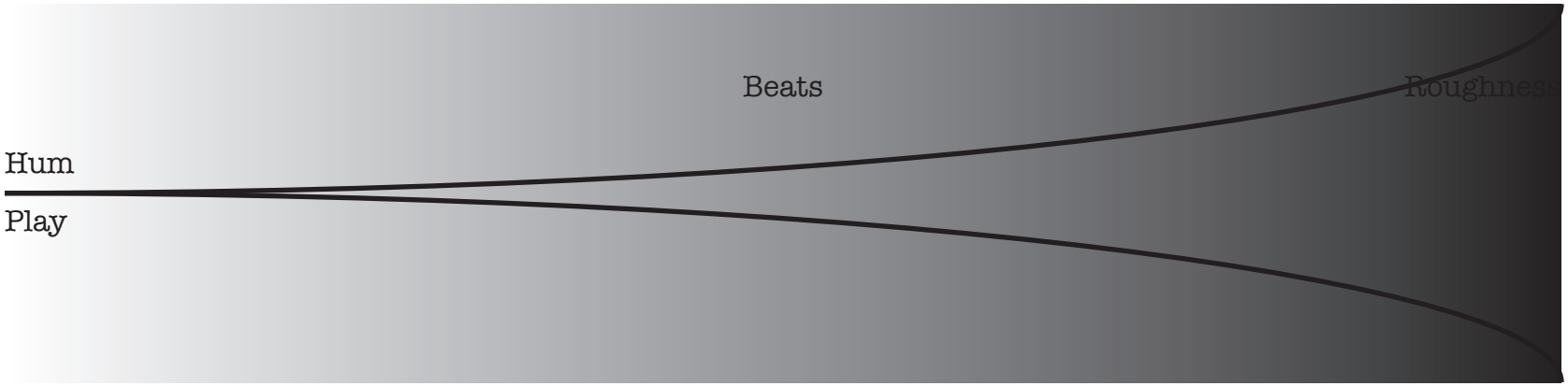
1) Play a single note in the range:



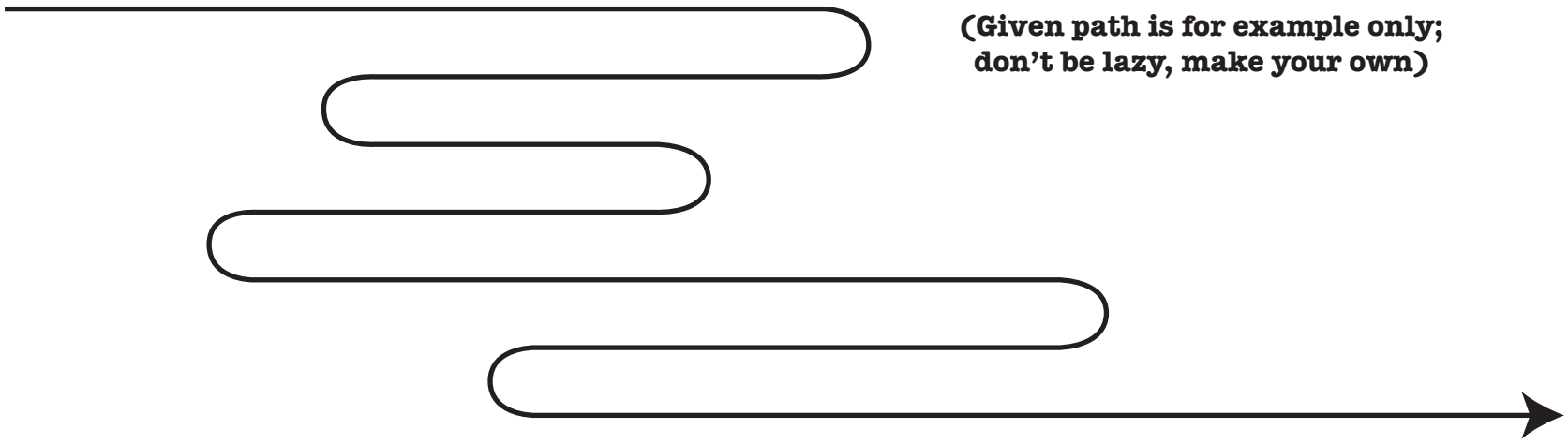
2) Transform vowel:



1) Play and hum any pitch.



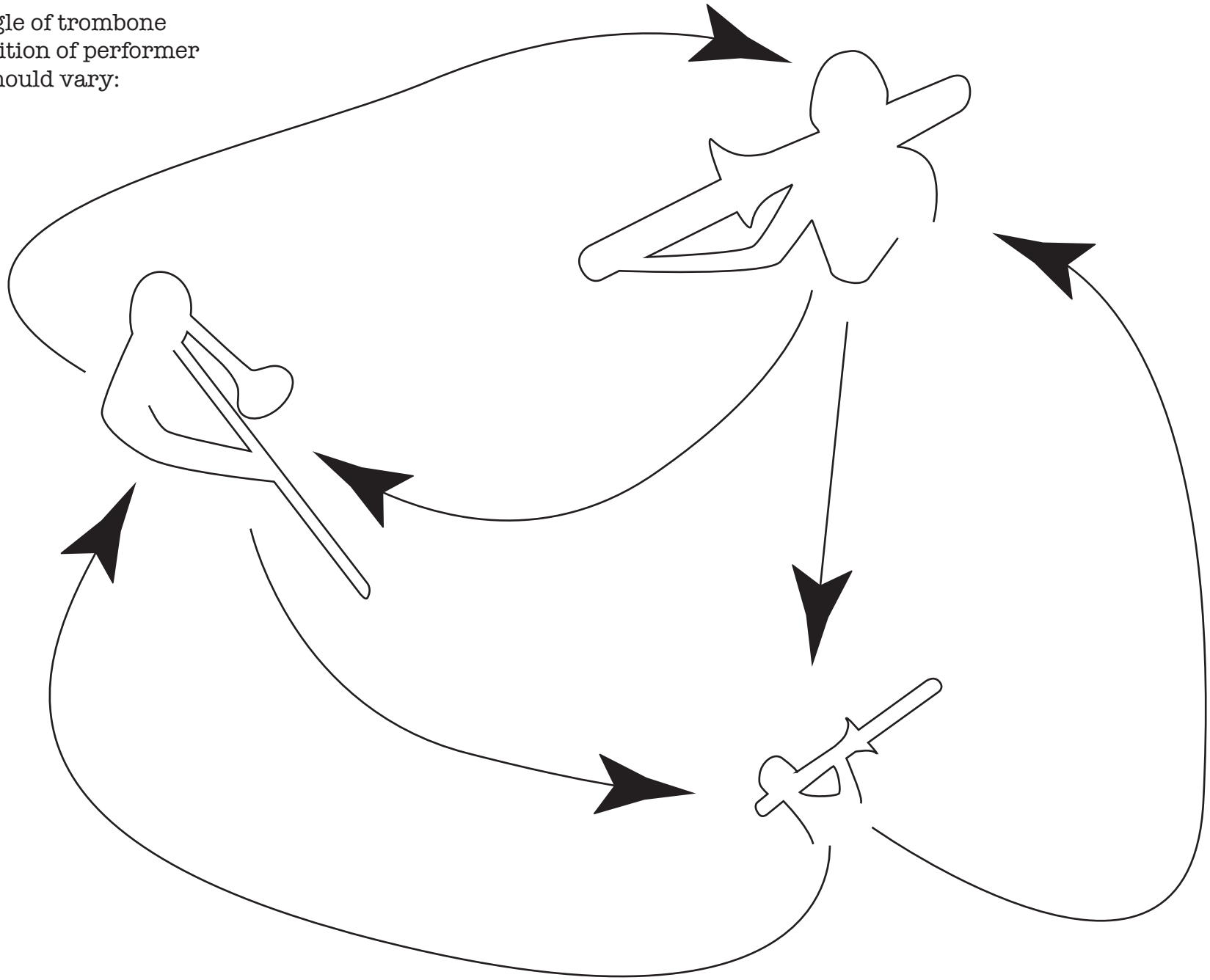
2) Referencing chart above improvise gliss:



(Given path is for example only; don't be lazy, make your own)

Suggested Alternative: Invert humming and playing (i.e. humming below playing)

Angle of trombone
Position of performer
...should vary:



6

Silence

Scratch bicep, back of hand, side of nose, or outer ear

Blow through trombone to clear spit

If sitting, jog leg

Take a drink of water

Sit

Stand

Run hand through hair

Reorganize score pages on stand

*Empty spit valve on floor
Remove rag from back pocket
Dry floor...
...dab if carpeted
...wipe if wood, tile, or cement

Take a very deep breath (eyes closed)--as if centering focus

If sitting, brace elbow on arm rest and hold chin--as if contemplating

Moisten lips (not in a sexual manner, but for practical reasons)

Alter orientation of page

2

Make minor adjustments to trombone (e.g. tuning slide, mouth piece, etc.)

"Absently" scratch or play with facial hair, if present

Alter Orientation of page

2

Discard this page

Niente----------DYNAMIC LEVEL----------Fortissimo
Attack Only----------DURATION----------Full Breath
Pedal Tone----------PITCH----------Squeaks
High----------PROBABILITY----------Low