

OPERATION UNDERGROUND CONQUEST

for piano solo and AM radio

2021

Yu-Tung Cheng

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Program Notes

This work utilizes gameplay footage from Battlefield V as its marquette, attempting to delineate events in warfare. The piano's timbral diversity allows the sonic experience of this solo work to highlight the sporadic nature of combat encounters.

The US hand and arm signals foreshadow the cacophonous hell which soldiers endure, interrupted with bouts of deafening silence. These events are telegraphed by the performer and experienced by the audience through the performer's haptic interpretations of combat signals while the piano seeks to emulate the intensity of an artillery barrage through extreme dynamic ranges.

Duration

Ca. 8 minutes

Notes for Wesley

Keyboard



Scratch keys - use fingernails to scratch the surface on white keys



Ticking sound- use combination of fingertips and fingernails to tap key surface without playing notes

Inside Piano (limited in zone A₁-E₂)



Dampen sound - left hand inside piano mutes 1/3 length of the string while right hand plays the note



Tap string - use fingertips and nails to tap the string

numbers indicates suggested fingering - however, alternating fingers per note is preferred
(1 - thumb, 2 - index finger, etc.)




Scratch strings - horizontally scratch the strings from left to right with back of fingernails



*diamond noteheads indicate the thumb permanently dampening that string (A₀ or A#₀)
as other fingers tapping and scratching adjacent, unmuted strings

Superball Mallet

-  Rubbing sound- use a superball mallet to rub the lid (fallboard) or the edges, creating moaning sound (fig. 7)

Use a metal nail file to stab a rubber superball (bouncy ball) to create your own mallet (any size ball works; buy a variety pack on Amazon as the finishes and sizes will differ and affect the pitch and friction of each ball)

Pedal

Pedal ad. lib. except where indicated; specific moments are notated with-

sos. _____ | sostenuto pedal

ped. _____ | sustained pedal

Cluster



Additional Requests

Performer should have the AM radio or mobile phone (substitute) set up around the piano where they can reach.

Morse Code Original: -- . . - - . - . . / . - . - - . - . - . - . - . / - - - / - - . - - - - . . / - - - - -

Soldier Briefing Recordings: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bj1yzVlrT-0>

Performance Notes for Wesely: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bF729CrCOzI>

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♩ = 96 - 112

rubbing sound use a superball mallet to rub the lid (fallboard) or the edges, creating moaning sound

4/8

mp

pp

mf

p

3

8^{vb}

ff

8^{va}

4/8

radio static

use fingernails to scratch the surface on white keys (no specific pitch)

4

pp

p

f

pp sub.

ppp

f

p

cluster

8^{va}

8^{vb}

3

6

8^{va}

8^{vb}

8^{vb}

8^{vb}

Red.

Morse code in fast speed