

PIANO GUSTING  
for dropped piano

AARON KEYT

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Composed for the Piano Drop installation at Jack Straw.

“The wind on the piano as it falls, as it rests.”

For four players.

Duration: About four minutes. A clock should be positioned to measure time.

Equipment needed: Each player has a small piezo microphone connected by a cord (ca. 24”) to a hand-held, battery-operated mini-amplifier. Each player may also have a straw or other tube for directing their air stream (optional).

Performance: The players are arranged on the four sides of the dropped piano. The players position their microphones as they please on or in the dropped piano, and then blow at or into that space. Gusts may be loud or soft, long or short, sparse or plentiful. Players may move their microphone around within their region or explore just one spot. Players should control their amps to avoid feedback as much as possible.

Program note: Two images inspired this piece. First, a piano floating gently through the sky, in antithesis to the violence of dropping and shattering it. Second, the Aleutian island of Adak, known as “the Birthplace of Winds,” for decades a major U.S. military base and then suddenly abandoned, leaving the buildings and other paraphernalia of thousands of people to disintegrate in the wind.

Premiered February 23, 2019, by Jennifer Chung, Karen Eisenbrey, Keith Eisenbrey, and Aaron Keyt, at the Jack Straw New Media Gallery, Seattle.

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