

Seven Working-Class Time Pieces

for Performer



Written for the Hadit Collective

By
Aidan Teplitzky

1. Expiration Date
2. Free Time
3. Needed Time of Arrival
4. Part Time
5. Queuing
6. Repetition
7. Per Hour

Do you remember at school when you were in a really boring class?

You'd be checking the clock, trying not to get caught by the teacher.

Always looking back to find out when the boring stuff would end and life could start again.

You'd sneak your coat on. Shove your books into your bag. Eye up the door. Getting ready.

The bell would go off and you'd be free to live.

You ever wondered if your life was just checking the clock waiting for something real to begin but the bell never going off?

Here's what that life's like.

Instrumentation

Keyboard

Metronome

Microphone

Duration

20 minutes

Score in C

1. Expiration Date

Keyboard and Metronome

*Come off chord at **Bold** lettering. Say text as though you were talking to someone.*

♩ = 116

16 beats rest



I've been wearing this shirt for the past seven years but don't want to give it up

because I want it to last **longer**.

15 beats rest



I bought it in a charity shop and so do not know how long it was worn for before

I have worn **it**.

14 beats rest



I paid nine pounds for it and have worn it for around ten days out of every month

for the past **seven** years.

13 beats rest



I wake up and go to bed at around nine so the shirt would be on my body for

around **twelve** hours.

12 beats rest



This means that this shirt has been on my body for eight thousand six hundred

and forty hours over **the** past seven years.

11 beats rest



As of this moment the value of this shirt is equal to zero point zero zero one pence
per hour of me wearing it.

10 beats rest



I don't want to give up on this shirt because I do not know if my next **shirt** will
last as long.

9 beats rest



What if the next shirt I buy only lasts for three months at ten days per **month**
before ripping or looking done?

8 beats rest



What if I paid forty pounds for a shirt and the price doesn't match the **quality**
because I am unknowingly paying for the brand rather than the shirt?

7 beats rest



What if the money I spend on the shirt was needed for future bills **I** don't know
about and I wasted it on a shirt that only lasted three hundred and sixty hours on my body?

6 beats rest



What if I misjudge how long it will last and end up looking **like** I am poor and not
able to afford nice clothes?

5 beats rest



How long will I have people thinking I am poor because I **misjudged** how much time I would get out of a shirt?

4 beats rest



How long will I feel guilty for for buying a shirt **that** doesn't even last three months on my body?

3 beats rest



How long will I feel angry for for wasting my money **on** a shirt that doesn't last when I could have bought something that would've lasted longer?

2 beats rest



I've been wearing this shirt for the past seven **years** but don't want to give it up because I want it to last longer.

1 beat rest



I want this shirt to last as long **as** possible so I don't feel guilty about those nine pounds being wasted when they could have been spent on bills rather than on a shirt

1 beat rest then mentronome off

2. Off Time

Piano and Metronome

$\text{♩} = 60$

Spoken

Performer 4/4 metronome on I have been looking past this screen for the last hour

Keyboard 4/4 *p*

6

Performer or so. I want to be doing

Pno.

12

Performer something to be productive even when I want to be doing nothing.

Pno. *mf* *p*

16

Performer I have been exhausted for

Pno.

21

Performer the past six months but I have been told everyone is feeling

Pno. *mf* *p*

24

Performer

this way so I feel guilty for whining about being tired

Pno.

mf

28

Performer

Now I have time to relax I can't because I might fall off

Pno.

p

32

Performer

at work.

Pno.

37

Performer

Why can't I be fine with doing nothing when I'm off

Pno.

43

Performer

time? Why

Pno.

49

Performer

can't I be fine with being off time? metronome off

Pno.

3. Needed Time of Arrival

Keyboard and Metronome


♩ = 208

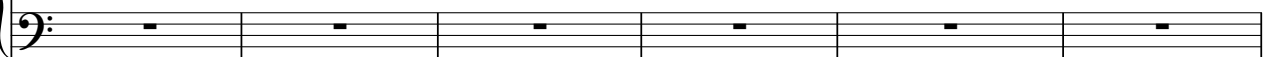
Performer 


Metronome On

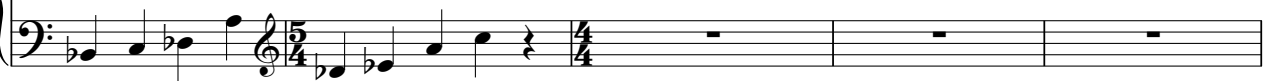
Keyboard 


mf


Performer 

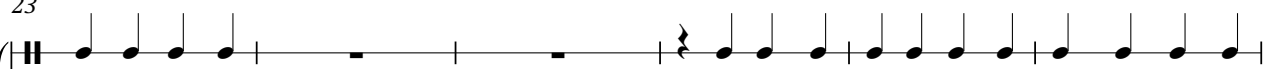
Pno. 


Performer 

Pno. 


Performer 

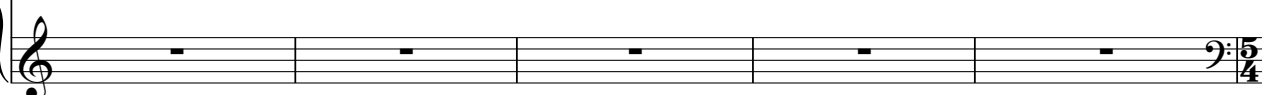
Pno. 

Performer 


Pno. 

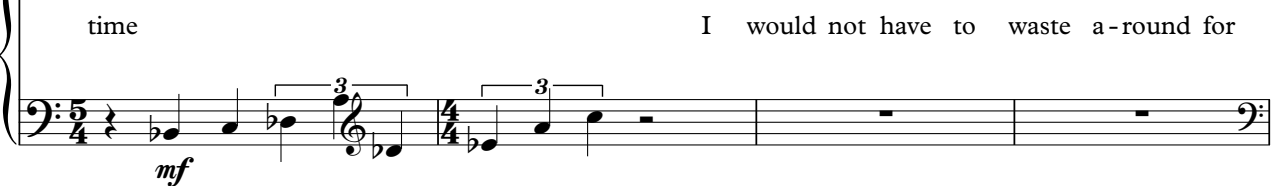
mf

Performer 

Pno. 

34

Performer  time I would not have to waste a-round for

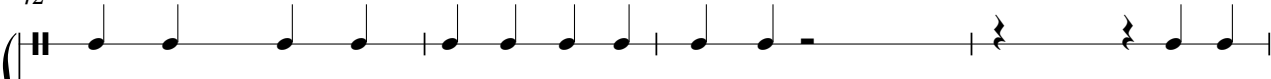
Pno.  *mf*

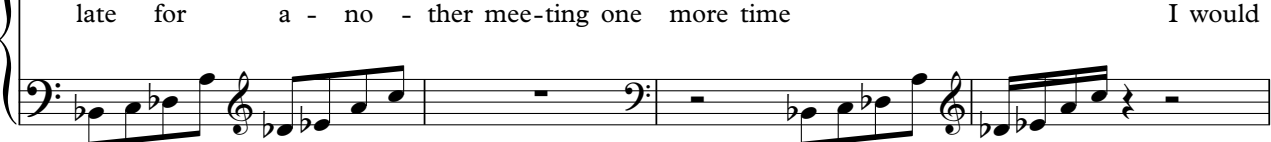
38

Performer  my train to a - rrive, wa-tching each mi-nute tick by and ma-king me

Pno. 

42

Performer  late for a - no - ther mee-ting one more time I would


Pno. 

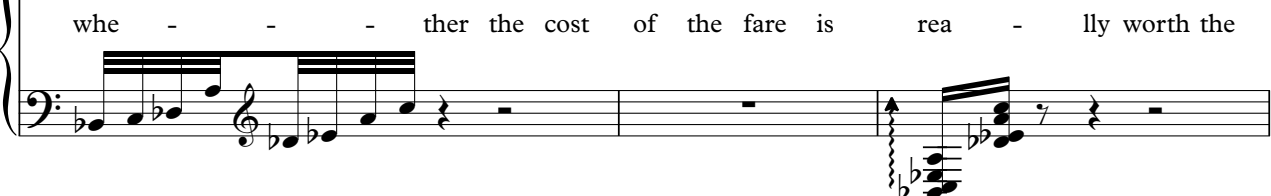
46

Performer  not have to death glare the me - ter in the ta - xi rise and de-bate


Pno. 

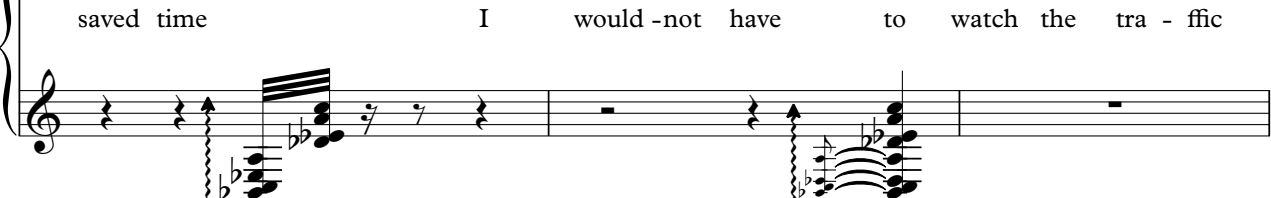
50

Performer  whe - - ther the cost of the fare is rea - lly worth the

Pno. 

53

Performer  saved time I would -not have to watch the tra - ffic

Pno. 

56

Performer

shu-dder in-ches be-cause I could not af-ford to not get the bus this time. I

Pno.

61

Performer

would not have to check the clock as I go from brisk walk, to jog, to

Pno.

65

Performer

run be-cause I walked to save cash at the cost of my free time

Pno.

69

Performer

I could save this time to let me do what re-

Pno.

74

Performer

ally mat-ters to me I could have time to see my friends, my part - ner, my mum with-

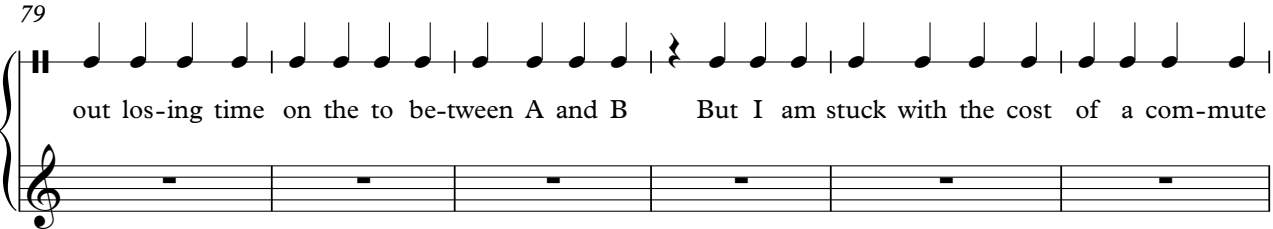
Pno.

79

Performer

out los-ing time on the to be-tween A and B But I am stuck with the cost of a com-mute

Pno.

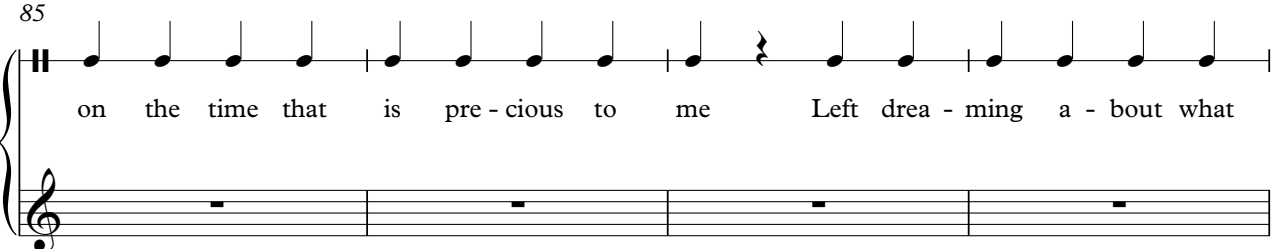


85

Performer

on the time that is pre-cious to me Left drea-ming a-bout what

Pno.



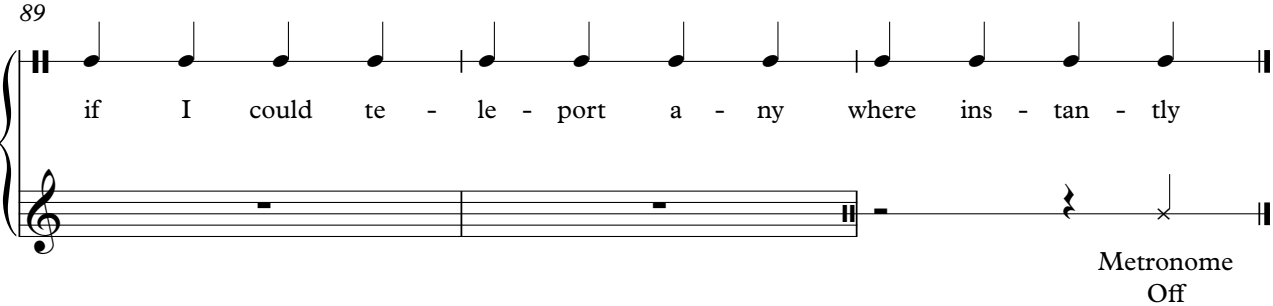
89

Performer

if I could te-le-port a-ny where ins-tan-tly

Pno.

Metronome Off



4. Part Time

Keyboard and Metronome

Say text as though you were talking to someone. Play boxed text. Change keyboard instrument voice after each line.

♩ = 76

Metronome on. 4 beats rest

Loud, dissonant, and
accented chord.

One of my extended aunties will occasionally buy things only to return them the next day.

High, quiet, trill.

It could be a nice dress, a lamp, or some knickknack for around the house.

Low, loud, cluster.

She might get judging looks from the uptight jobsworths when returning things, but she doesn't care.

Loud, rhythmic,
Major triad chord.

These things aren't ridiculously expensive, usually around the 20 to 90 quid mark.

Rising, single line,
whole tone scale.

But it's not something that she could really afford.

Jazzy chord.

It could be something that she really loves but knows it isn't something that she needs.

Chromatic contrary
motion.

She might try the piece of clothing on but wouldn't dare to wear it out and hide the tag.

Loud, repeated note.

But she will still buy it and own it for a little while before she needs to part with it.

Romantic, arpeggio
melody.

This part time ownership is something I haven't inherited.

Quiet, spacious,
pretty chord.

I think it's because I need to have a reason for buying something.

Large octave jump.

But my auntie has the strength to know she doesn't need to constantly own new things to feel good about herself.

Syncopated chord
rhythm

She knows it's more important to be happy in the long term by being content with what she has rather than getting into debt by cluttering her life with short periods of newness.

Rising scales an
interval apart

So she will buy things and own them part time as proof that she doesn't need them.

Metronome off.

5. Queuing

Metronome

Say text as though you were talking to someone. Take time in between each line.

Metronome on at slowest tempo. One beat then stop metronome.

I have been sat in this meeting for the past thirty minutes and we haven't gotten past the first item on the agenda.

The person talking has spent thirty minutes to say something that only takes a few seconds to say: we need to improve our reputation.

This person speaks in an RP accent, is dressed in a well-fitting suit, and has the kind of tiredness you get from living a life rather than working.

That isn't to say they haven't worked but that their life is more off the clock than on.

It's times like this where I think about queuing.

Approx. 1 minute. One beat from metronome then stop metronome.

It's a decent idea in theory, first come first served and then you wait for your turn.

It can work in low-risk scenarios like at the shops.

But what if there is an urgency in what is needing to be done because you don't have the free time to spend waiting.

For example, it takes approximately five weeks to get your first payment from universal credit, and, if you don't have any savings, you won't have that much time to wait. You can apply for an advance but that just means you join another queue.

And, like queuing, you have an idea of how long things should take.

Approx. 1 minute. One beat from metronome then stop metronome.

For example, me going to this meeting: Two minutes for getting cash out, five waiting for a train, twelve to get to the destination, and ten to get to the meeting.

But for every minute too much you feel the grunts from behind, the impatient tapping at your mind, the feeling that every moment extra stuck on this task is making that queue multiply.

At times like this, spending thirty minutes talking about improving your reputation is time that could be spent improving your reputation by not wasting time.

But you have to wait your turn, whether that time is available or not.

Approx. 1 minute.

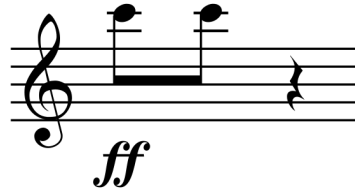
6. Repetition

Keyboard and Metronome

Say text as though you were talking to someone.



Play on red



Play on blue

♩ = 192

Metronome on. 8 beats rest.

I was on the train to Manchester and was in that in-between bit of Deansgate and Oxford Road. There were two girls at the table seats in front of me, maybe around thirteen years old. They had jumped onto the train at Preston so were travelling for about fifty minutes. They had spent the majority of the trip figuring out how much they had and whether it was enough to get them back. Think they had nine quid between them. They were talking the usual shit you talk about when you're reaching the end of a commute when one of them asked the other:

“Would you want 2 million pounds or two pound every time I pissed you off?”

“Two pound every time you pissed me off.”

And then her mate asked:

“Would you want 2 million pounds or two pound every time you stressed me out?”

“Two pound every time you stressed me out.”

Now I don't know anything about these two people, but in the fifty minutes I had spent with them I had noticed the following:

They had tried to get the earlier train but were stopped by the train conductors. This **pissed** the girl off and **stressed** the other one out having been stopped. The girl was then **pissed** off about not getting to Manchester on time which **stressed** the other one. They were both **pissed** off and **stressed** from counting their money. The girl was **pissed** off from her mate talking so much which was her attempt to not be so **stressed**. The girl had her legs up on the table and was **pissed** off when her mate told her to drop them as she was **stressed** over being noticed by the ticket guy. When they were leaving the girl was **pissed** off about the ticket gates which **stressed** the other thinking how to get around the barriers without paying.

In the 50 minutes of me listening in they had both earned twelve quid from their hypothetical questions. It would take them each another nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety-four times of being **pissed** off and **stressed** at each other to make their lump two million sum. I don't know why they made it two quid each time, maybe so they could split it between them. All I know is that the two girls believe they are more likely to repeat the cycle of one being **pissed** off and the other being **stressed** more than a million times in their lives. And this made me think:

How many times would they be **pissed** off and **stressed** in a day? twelve times every fifty minutes they're awake so around two-hundred and thirty times.

How many times would they be **pissed** off and **stressed** in a week? one thousand, six hundred and ten times.

How many times would they be **pissed** off and **stressed** in a month? six thousand, four hundred and forty times.

How many times would they be **pissed** off and **stressed** in a year? eighty-three thousand, nine hundred and fifty times.

How many times would they be **pissed** off and **stressed** in their lifetimes? the average age of death is eighty-one years old and they are around thirteen so five million, seven hundred and eight thousand and six hundred times.

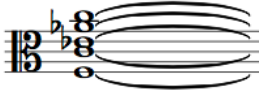
Metronome off

7. Per Hour

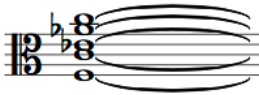
Keyboard and Metronome

*Have sus. pedal down throughout piece. Change chords on **bold** lettering.*

♩ = 44



I was looking for a job for forty-eight weeks due to the **pandemic**.



My main source of income was a waiting **job** that paid minimum wage plus tips,
making around **ten** pound an hour.



I was looking at either another waiting job or **something** a bit more aspirational like
an administration **assistant**.



Having spent six years in higher **education**, getting two degrees (a **first** and a
distinction) and working **as** the vice-president of a union for **three** of those years, I thought my **time**
had a certain value.



Ten pound an hour **maybe**.



I would look through job search **adverts** for around thirty minutes Monday to **Friday**
for the period of these **eight months**, totalling three **hundred** hours.





I would always panic whenever I saw that a job didn't advertise their pay **at** a per

hour rate.



I would calculate what it would be but whenever

the **number** seemed too good to be true I'd doubt it.



I'd think that there would be hidden costs to my **salary** that I didn't know

about.



I'd think that I would **have** to work more hours than what **the** job

actually specified.



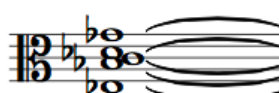
I'd think I wouldn't be paid the **amount** stated because of

hidden **targets** I would have to meet within **the** job.



And in spending three

hundred hours of my life so **far** looking for a job I still want to **know** how much I am being **paid** per hour.



Because that is the good and the

bad **thing** about being paid per hour.



You know how

much your time is worth.



Even if it means you

become limited **to** your life being lived per hour.



Turn metronome on.



Turn metronome off.