

THE BAR
from PERFECT LIVES

Robert Ashley
in 7 at 72bpm

CC EE CC GG CC BB CC GG
* * *

CC EE CC GG CC BB CC GG
* * *

CC EE CC GG CC BB CC GG
* * *

CC EE CC GG CC BB CC GG
* * *

* * * * *
* * * *

* * * * *
* * * *

* CHEW * CRASH * BLINK
* CRASH * LEFT * FORELEG * FORWARD

* CRASH * REAR * RIGHTLEG
* FORWARD * CRASH * CHEW * CRASH

* BLINK * CRASH *
ETCETERA, ETCETERA, (PHEW!) *

PAUL Thought #1 (30")

For a long time he's been fighting the possibility that the idea truly works only for him. And that it's not just a superstition. The idea is that all humans are governed by cycles of fortune and misfortune that come from somewhere. Not from our actions. The cycle for the masculine part of us is fourteen years. The cycle for the feminine part is ten years. We don't know where the cycles come from. *(yeah)*

ALIZA Crash #1 (30")

it should have been obvious
when he couldn't even stand up
in front of the high-school assembly
without holding onto a chair and another guy
and so was assigned to a remedial public-speaking class
taking place at lunch hour
and so displacing lunch
that something was wrong
seriously wrong

YEAR 1 BEGIN

AMIRTHA The Journal [year 1] (30")

I don't know w ---
what you can say about your first year.
The women don't like it much, I think.
But of course, you always h ---
hear about the foreign woman who came here to have a b ---
better life for herself and her kids.
She gives b ---
birth while she's squatting in the field working.
And she doesn't give it another thought.
You think, th ---
that's strange.
Then it comes to you that this is the w ---
way we think about all poor people.
Poor people are always happy to have what they have.

AMIRTHA The Journal [year 2]

(30")

At two years old I got e ---
electrocuted.

I was a baby sitting in water in an iron tub on a metal t ---
table.

There's an electric wall plug right there and wh ---
wham.

Next thing is that some part of me is up in the up ---
upper southwest corner of the room,
watching my mother and my grandmother
shaking my body and c ---
crying.

I keep wondering why the up --
upper southwest corner.

The other day I read about a man w ---
who got electrocuted by accident.

He says he was in the up ---
upper southwest corner.

YEAR 2 BEGIN

PAUL Thought #2

(30")

It's just an idea that has made him think a lot about why it should be. And how
perfectly it fits his history. But when he thinks such things he realizes that his
obsession would be called a superstition. *(yeah)*

This is just a note about superstitions. What to watch out for is any hint of a
superstition in your thinking. If you think the way he thinks, it's hard to be friends
with scientists. Scientists are important to some of us. They are the priests of our
time. Maybe you believe in priests. *(yeah)*

ALIZA Crash #2

(30")

which turned out to be
after study and further adventures
a fear of people who are
important to some people any people
a fear of people barely known
and a fear of a large number of people
a fear of the sort that
has a name among psychologists
and that can cause a lot of problems

CHANT is in 2 BEATS PER LINE. Each beat is divided by two (duplets).

The two-line couplet will be repeated 15 times in order to be heard for a minute.

The tempo is 60 beats per minute.

1

2

There is one minute of CHARACTER VOICES before Year 1 begins.

Year 1 REPEAT 15 TIMES.

Ah, those for- eig-
ners in our fields.

Year 2

She wished I was
not a- round.

Year 3

The scene in the
rain was fun.

Year 4

Af- ter lay ing
off for five years.

Year 5

And the must- y
smell of the barn.

Year 6

Jumped up on the
porch rail- ing.

ACT I**DAVE****CRASH****(Act I - 15 minutes)**

CHANT is in 3 BEATS PER LINE. Each beat is divided by three (triplets).

The two-line couplet will be repeated 10 times in order to be heard for a minute.

The tempo is 60 beats per minute.

123

Year 1 REPEAT EACH COUPLET 10 TIMES (60")

What about after-birth? / / Do
poor people / / have afterbirth?

Year 2 (60")

The old / grandmother scoots 'round the
house all day / in her wheelchair.

Year 3 (60")

I can't re- member what we did with
the toast. / Sure-ly I ate it.

Year 4 (60")

How relieved I was / about the
violin. No vio- lin for me.

Year 5 (60")

/ And the magic of the rows of
ruined trees. /

Year 6 (60")

He scared my fat aunt whom I didn't
like and she did-n't like me.

Year 7 (60")

Mis-ter Payne remembered me.
It broke my heart. /

CHANT is in 4 BEATS PER LINE Each beat is divided by four (quadruplets).
The two-line couplet will be repeated almost eight times (7.5 times)
in order to be heard for a minute. The tempo is 60 beats per minute.

1234

Year 1

/ One woman said she prayed . . for menopause
/ so there wouldn't be anymore. /

Year 2

/ It was definitely sometime during the
morning. / I re- member the light.

Year 3

/ I can't i- magine how my mother got the girl
/ without knowing a-bout the pauses. /

Year 4

/ I had the coffee thrill many years later.
/ I hadn't had a cup in five years. /

Year 5

/ Also the lilacs next to the barn,
/ the purple / and the way they droop. /

Year 6

Th'goat was terr- ific he would jump up on the porch rail and just
balance there. / The porch rail was a two by four.

Year 7

/ I didn't know La- Ree was sort of strange. I just
thought she didn't like Mister Payne a foreigner

CHORUS:	<u>BACK</u> HOME * *	493	G	
	<u>SOME</u> DAYS * *	494		
	<u>SHE</u> PRETENDS * *	495	_Ab	
	<u>SHE'S</u> SOMEONE * *	496	Eb	
	<u>ELSE.</u> * *	497		
	* * *	498		[Bbm]
Linda:	Hello.	499		
	No.	500	G	
	I mean, no, it's not she.	501	C	
	No.	502	_G	
	No.	503	_Bbb	
	She hasn't been at this number in some time.	504	_Ab	
	No.	505	Eb	
	I wish I could help you.	506	_Bb	
	No.	507	F	
	Of course.	508	_C	
	Yes.	509	Db	
	Goodbye.	510	C	
CHORUS:	<u>ON THE THIRD CALL</u> SHE'S	511	Eb	
	<u>TOLD THAT DON HAS BEEN SEEN</u>	512	_Db	
	<u>ON THE ROAD</u> * WITH <u>ELEANOR.</u>	513	F	
	<u>AND TALK LOCALLY IS</u> THAT THEY'RE	514	_C	
	<u>HEADED FOR MEXICO.</u> *	515	G	
	<u>MORE OF THIS LATER.</u> *	516		[Fm]

Bob

108 -- 4/4 Click
109 -- She asked me to write a
110 -- / love letter.
111 -- Something she can hide
112 -- in a shoebox in the drawer.
113 -- / No names, no promises,
114 -- just something she can look at
115 -- to remind her what the day is for.
116 -- /
117 -- / Lonely lady,
118 -- middle of the afternoon.
119 -- / Lonely lady,
120 -- come in feeling blue.
121 -- / Love letter on a paper napkin,
122 -- Folded, addressed to you,
123 -- / Lonely lady.
124 -- /
125 -- "Blue" Solo
126 --
127 --
128 --
129 --
130 --
131 --
132 -- end "Blue" Solo

133 -- How precious
134 -- you are,
135 -- I mean to me.
136 -- /
137 -- / How priceless
138 -- you are,
139 -- will always be.
140 -- /
141 -- / How special
142 -- you are
143 -- no one can see,
144 -- /
145 -- (but) I'll keep it a secret,
146 -- /
147 -- I'll keep it a secret,
148 -- /
149 -- I'll keep it a secret,
150 -- /
151 -- / Sincerely, ...
152 -- /

Segue to BRUNO, Part 1