

Bad Death Ghosts

Benjamin Tassie | 2022

For Microtonal Spinnet and Lap Steel Guitar

Duration: c.12 minutes

The spinet is to be retuned microtonally using the pitches from the lower manual of Nicola Vicentino's 1555 archicembalo. The instrument's music is therefore transposing, with the notes A₂ to E₄¹ retuned as follows:

Key	Sounding Note	Tuning in Cents	Deviation from 12-ET in Cents
A ₂	A ₂	0.00	0
B _{b2}	A _{#2}	77.5	-22.5
B ₂	B _{b2}	116.1	+16.1
C ₃	B ₂	193.6	-6.4
C _{#3}	B _{#2}	270.9	-29.1
D ₃	C ₃	309.7	+9.7
E _{b3}	C _{#3}	387.1	-12.9
E ₃	D _{b3}	425.8	+25.8
F ₃	D ₃	503.2	+3.2
F _{#3}	D _{#3}	580.6	-19.4
G ₃	E _{b3}	619.3	+19.3
A _{b3}	E ₃	696.8	-3.2
A ₃	E _{#3}	774.2	-25.8
B _{b3}	F ₃	813	+13
B ₃	F _{#3}	890.4	-9.6
C ₄	G _{b3}	929	+29
C _{#4}	G ₃	1006.5	+6.5
D ₄	G _{#3}	1083.9	-16.1
E _{b4}	A _{b3}	1122.6	+22.6
E ₄	A ₃	1200	0

The lap steel guitar uses the following scordatura:

String	Pitch	Deviation from 12-ET in Cents
1	E ₃	-3.2
2	D ₃	+3.2
3	A ₂	0
4	B _{#2}	-29.1
5	A ₁	0
6	D ₁	+3.2

The spinet should be amplified. Special care should be taken to capture the richness of the instrument's resonance. The spinet player should lead the performance, with the guitar player starting and ending each iteration of their chord as closely as possible with the spinet. A chord should last between six and eight seconds. A rest should last between one-half and one second.

¹ Please note, I am using the Yamaha system to describe these pitches where middle C = C₃

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Transposing; hold for 6 to 8 seconds

Spinet

follow spinet; always open strings

Lap Steel Guitar

A

9

Spn.

L. St. Gtr.

B

18

Spn.

L. St. Gtr.

C

27

Spn.

L. St. Gtr.

||

35 **E** **F**

Spn.

L. St. Gtr.

44 **G**

Spn.

L. St. Gtr.

51

Spn.

L. St. Gtr.

59 **H**

Spn.

L. St. Gtr.

68

I J

Spn.

L. St. Gtr.

Measures 68-76. Section I (measures 68-71) and Section J (measures 72-76). Spn. part: Treble and Bass staves. Treble staff has a key signature change to B-flat major at measure 69. L. St. Gtr. part: Treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes at measure 72.

77

K L M

Spn.

L. St. Gtr.

Measures 77-84. Section K (measures 77-80), Section L (measures 81-83), and Section M (measure 84). Spn. part: Treble and Bass staves. Treble staff has a key signature change to B-flat major at measure 84. L. St. Gtr. part: Treble staff with triplets of eighth notes at measures 78 and 83.

85

N

Spn.

L. St. Gtr.

Measures 85-92. Section N (measures 85-92). Spn. part: Treble and Bass staves. L. St. Gtr. part: Treble staff with a triplet of eighth notes at measure 87.

93

O

Spn.

L. St. Gtr.

Measures 93-100. Section O (measures 93-100). Spn. part: Treble and Bass staves. Treble staff has a key signature change to B-flat major at measure 94. L. St. Gtr. part: Treble staff.