BECOMING

for piano, voice, fixed audio, dance, and video

Brad Robin
(2018)
Becoming

*Becoming* tells the story of a protagonist's discovery and mastery of his inner voices in conjunction with growing clarity of his past and a greater synchronicity with the present. The piece explores the many ways and relationships between the discovery, acknowledgment, coping, and eventual healing from trauma. Video is used as a way to provide imagery and symbolism of past and present. Imagery may include collages of memories, faces of impactful people to the protagonist, as well as abstract imagery enhancing or reflecting the energy of the moment. Dance is used (in conjunction with music) to portray the relationship between feelings and their triggers, the latter can be images on screen and/or voices diffused through the immersive speaker system. The protagonist reveals his relationship to music as both a personal inspiration, spiritual anchor, and eventual way to integration, health, and eventual creative prosperity.

Becoming can be performed in any of three ways:

1) A multimedia piece involving dance, computer projections, immersive (four channel) electro-acoustical fixed media, live piano, and voice. Ideally though not necessarily, two spotlights are available: one for the dance and one for the pianist.

2) Live piano and voice (with sound reinforcement if desired), multimedia computer projections, and two or four channel fixed audio,

3) Live piano and voice (with sound reinforcement for the voice and piano if desired), and two channel fixed media,

Can be performed on electric piano keyboard instead of acoustic piano.
Becoming

I.

Brad Robin

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Becoming

Rattling and breathing continues, add piano sounds.

As screen lightens, struggle to rise to plank, then to knees...

“At first this may even seem enriching and effective.”
Struggle with yourself “internally”, as if the sounds are in your head, torturing you.

“But eventually…”

“Depression:”  “a gradual buildup of unfelt feelings”  “Submerging.”  “sinking,”  image of descending staircase  “and drowning the spirit.”

Becoming
Becoming

Pno.

El.

Dncr.

Vd.

Rattling and breathing continues, add electronic whining.

breath

big breath

*inner child* wakes up, look at screen as video becomes active.

image of fluxing tree

Rattling and breathing continues, add piano sounds.
Continue to build intensity. Opportunity for dramatic contrast: when music is active, dance can be static, holding energy. (not wilted, but powerfully filled)

"the pattern resumes...the compulsivity heightens..."

 Pence the tempo

PAUSE

Continue to build intensity. Opportunity for dramatic contrast: when music is active, dance can be static, holding energy. (not wilted, but powerfully filled as if trying to keep balance); when piano freezes, the dance actively releases energy (forces in opposition).
Become aware of your surroundings (outside focus).

Sounds of the inside of the piano.

Gradually begin to interact with dancer on video.

When piano stops, collapse OR - continue with intensity and gradually decrease energy.

Clanging.

Becoming
Pause and listen.

SPOKEN: "You can’t escape yourself."

You can’t escape yourself.”

Improvisate using these figures

Repetitive pattern resumes, (repetition and obsession also built into the dance video).

Yet the pattern returns.”

"Yet the pattern returns.”

"You can’t escape yourself" (repeats)

Becoming
Becoming

Movement tension - hold powerful energy - distills extended.

Flowing, smooth.

Becoming gently

Flowing, smooth.
Granulated voices gradually become denser and more intense.

Granulated voices begin sparsely...

Granulated voices gradually become denser and more intense.

insistently faster
Becoming

Build: glitchy, heightened obsession, repetitive, vibratory, percussive, with anguish, fighting to release. (the conflict between bound energy and the desire to release).

Start quick and not synchronized, gradually slower

Secco
More vibratory. Percussive, in anguish, fighting to release. Exhibit the conflict between bound energy and the desire to release. (as if you never get to release...)

Glitchy video.

Add metallic scraping granulations, voices fade.
Becoming

Pno. 12

El. 2

Dncr. 2

Vd. 2

203

207

212

intense percussive clanging

Final plie with porta bras arms up in air (hold a final breath in - the energy way up internally).
Becoming

Pno.

Dncr.

Vd.

Spinning on floor.

While facing pianist, exit offstage walking backwards slowly in opposite direction of pianist.

Metallic scraping gradually fades.

Rise, continue with outpour of energy.

Release (finally, whew...) and a gradual collapse.

8:15

a tempo

Metallic scraping gradually fades.

While facing pianist, exit offstage walking backwards slowly in opposite direction of pianist.
Vce.

When I was three, I was chased.

Pno.

wailing builds...

El.

I was held down!

Pno.

Choking sounds.

El.

Sounds of anguish.

Pno.

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Becoming

Vce.

Pno.

El.

Vd.

263

266

268

272

274

1 was left in fragments.

glassy sounds

glassy granulations build

glassy granulations continue

I was left in fragments!
I had forgotten.

glassy granulations fade

I blocked it out.

I tried... Had to survive...
Choking sounds, accompanied by a crescendo of wailing and shrieking.

Sunrise.

Becoming