

Douglas C. Wadle

Resection

for solo speaking voice/trombone
or
duet for speaking voice and trombone

PLAINSOUND MUSIC EDITION

For Patrick Crossland

RESECTION (2011), for solo speaking voice/trombone or duet for speaker and trombone

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERFORMER(S)

The individual segments of text are to be arranged in whatever order by the performer. Each bit of text is to be delivered, while moving freely about the stage, in this order with intermittent silences and/or trombone improvisations – single tones, short motives, and brief snatches of melody. Where the text names some part of the trombone, the performer is to remove that part of the instrument while stating its name, and place it somewhere upon the stage, continuing to perform upon what remains of the instrument. If the performer's instrument does not possess a particular part (e.g. a removable lead pipe), omit that text segment from the piece. Once the instrument has been fully disassembled, it should be slowly reassembled in as unconventional a manner as possible, again continuing to perform on the reassembled parts of the instrument. The piece is to end with a sustained improvisation once all the text has been delivered and all the parts of the instrument have been used in its unconventional reassembly. This improvisation should explore, as thoroughly as possible, the sounding possibilities of the reassembled instrument while maintaining the overall tone of the piece. As a variation, the piece may be performed as a duet, with one performer presenting the text, the other the trombone improvisations.

TEXT

After the patient is put to sleep with anesthesia, the surgeon makes an incision in the scalp, removes a piece of bone and pulls back a section of the dura, the tough membrane that covers the brain. This creates a "window" in which the surgeon inserts special instruments for removing the tumor or seizure focusⁱ.

The patterns of postoperative language functioning that we observed during the acute recovery period after surgery for a brain tumor support the perspective that acute aphasia profiles may be fundamentally different in patients with brain tumors compared with patients who have had a strokeⁱⁱ.

The ability of the right hemisphere to sustain the acquisition or the recovery of language after extensive damage to the left hemisphere has been essentially related to the age at the time of injuryⁱⁱⁱ.

The neural bases of such plasticity remain unexplored^{iv}.

Right activation was seen mainly in regions that could not be detected preoperatively, but mirrored those previously found in the left hemisphere (inferior frontal, temporal and parietal cortex), suggesting reorganization in a pre-existing bilateral network^v.

The regions which best correlated with the training-induced improvement in verbal

comprehension were the posterior part of the right superior temporal gyrus and the left precuneus^{vi}.

Improvement in auditory comprehension induced by specific training is associated with functional brain reorganization^{vii}.

Recovery of the patient confirmed as having a completed stroke affecting Broca's area occurred rapidly with a shift of activation to the homologous region in the right hemisphere within 3 days, with continued rightward lateralization over 6 months^{viii}.

Recovery of a Wernicke's aphasia in a patient, in whom mapping was performed fortuitously before the stroke, showed a similar increasing rightward shift in activation recruitment over 9 months after the event^{ix}.

This issue of plasticity is, in its most brass-tacks presentation, no more or less interesting than that of learning, itself.

In its most mystical presentation, on the other hand, we are confronted with the question: "Where does the meta-structure, by which the brain knows when and how to restructure itself, reside?"

Three brothers, quite distinct from one another, even at first appearance; to wit:

Slightly hawkish nose, inherited from father: 1 and 3

Narrow, straight nose (though in this case slightly bent from injury), inherited from maternal grandmother: 2

Sloping forehead, inherited from father: 1

Straight forehead, inherited from mother: 2 and 3

Pointed chin, inherited from father: 1 and 3

Broad, flat chin, inherited from mother: 2

Dark brown hair, inherited from father: 2

Reddish-brown hair, inherited from mother: 1

Dirty blond hair: 3

Blue eyes: 2

Gray eyes: 1 and 3

150-160 lbs: 1, 2, and 3

6'3.5", average for men on mother's side: 1

5'9", mean between father and mother: 2

5'5", unique: 3

Shoe size, 11: 1 and 2

Shoe size, 7: 3

Attached lobes: 1, 2, and 3

Lantern jaw, inherited from maternal grandfather: 2 and 3

Widow's peak, inherited from father: 1 and 2, though more dramatic in the case of 1

Author of artistic and academic texts, a unique manifestation of the confluence of various traits previously isolated within particular individuals in the family: 2

Foreign language teacher, the result of a fascination with the historical origins of paternal lineage: 1	Mouthpiece
	Bell section
Speaks German: 1 and, to a lesser extent, 2	Removable F-wrap
Speaks English: 1 and 2	Slide section
Understands English: 1, 2, and 3	Outer slide
Tuning slide	Inner slide
Tuning slide	Lead Pipe
Tuning slide	

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ⁱ Text taken from: “Temporal Lobe Resection” at MedicineNet.com, accessed January 11, 2011.

ⁱⁱ Text taken from: “Aphasia in Patients after Brain Tomour Resection” by Gail L. Davie, Katherine A. Hutcheson, Denise A. Barringer, Jeffrey S. Weinberg, Jan S. Lewin, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA. Published in *Aphasiology* (2009) 23 (9): 1196 – 1206.

ⁱⁱⁱ Text taken from: “Plasticity of Language-Related Brain Function During Recovery from Stroke” by Keith R. Thulborn, Patricia A. Carpenter, Marcel A. Just. Published in *Stroke*, (1999) 30: 749 – 754.

^{iv} Text taken from: *Ibid.*

^v Text taken from: *Ibid.*

^{vi} Text taken from: “Training-induced brain plasticity in aphasia” (1999) by Dr Mariacristina Musso, Department of Neurology, Friedrich-Schiller University. Published in *Brain*, (1999) 122 (9): 1781 – 1790.

^{vii} Text taken from *Ibid.*

^{viii} Text taken from: “Late plasticity for language in a child's non-dominant hemisphere: a pre- and post-surgery fMRI study” by L. Hertz-Pannier, C. Chiron, I. Jambaqué, V. Renaux-Kieffer, P. F. Van de Moortele, O. Delalande, M. Fohlen, F. Brunelle, D. Le Bihan, Department of Medical Research, Service Hospitalier Frederic Joliot, CEA and Institut Federatif de Recherche. Published in *Brain* (2002) 125 (2): 361 – 372.

^{ix} Text taken from: *Ibid.*