

at north farm

mark so

*Somewhere someone is traveling furiously toward you,
At incredible speed, traveling day and night,
Through blizzards and desert heat, across torrents, through narrow passes.*

—John Ashbery, “At North Farm”

—for 1 field recording (a desert environment, generally featureless, very long)

1 sustaining white noise

1 sustaining continuous-pitch instrument, having a range of several octaves, from very high to quite low

—*in an open, resonant space with some ambient sound, perhaps outdoors*—

field recording—enters first, imperceptibly, growing louder over the course of a few minutes until peaking at a level somewhat louder than the ambient sound but not obscuring it, then very gradually fades away over a very long period of time (perhaps 20-30' or more)

white noise—enters imperceptibly not long after the recording has entered, growing louder over several minutes until peaking at a level somewhat louder than the recording's peak (but not loud), at some point after the recording's peak, then very gradually fades away over a very long period of time (perhaps 20-30' or more)

continuous-pitch instrument—with one or more of the other sounds underway (perhaps around the time one or the other reaches its peak), begins playing a very long, slow, continuous descending glissando, lasting perhaps 30' or more, almost not moving at first and gradually accelerating over the course of the descent (eventually descending somewhat fast, at the very end), beginning at a very high pitch and descending through 3-4 (or more) octaves; enters imperceptibly and becomes louder, very gradually at first and increasingly fast as the descent quickens, but slowing to a broad, gently curving plateau (loudest near the middle) upon reaching a level that saturates the environment, lasting perhaps several minutes, then fades away more and more rapidly over the glissando's final minutes, disappearing just before the end

—*each sound traces its “decay” independently in time*—

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taos, nm