

# Nicolas Hodges

**Rebecca Saunders** To an utterance - study (2020)

utterance /'ʌt(ə)r(ə)ns/ n.

1. something uttered, a spoken word, murmured, disclosed, a statement, or vocal sound; an act of uttering; vocal expression; the manner and power of speaking; a speech sequence consisting of one or more words and preceded and followed by silence;

2. the utmost, or last, extremity - to the brink of, at the precipice

to an utterance: archaic + literary: the bitter end

ME C1400; OF C13, oultrance, from oultrer, to carry to excess, to pass beyond; L.:ultrā beyond

The solo piano as a disembodied voice, it seeks to tell its own story, wavering, on an uncertain quest.

It seeks its final silence through its own excess of speaking: an incessant and compulsive soliloquy.

A musical protagonist as being, on the precipice of non-being.

(Rebecca Saunders)

With my thanks to Nicolas Hodges.

Commissioned by Klangforum Wien for the première commercial audio recording on a portrait CD in 2020.

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