

Darrin Martin

*Steel Tongue Accordion Ears*

The melodic slow inhalation & exhalation...  
of an accordion begins.

A clang then melodic tone of a ringing meditation bowl meets the  
instrument's airy breath then its rhythm shallows and quickens irregularly.  
Tap, tap, tap, reverbed sounds of metal on metal....an interior resonance.

The ringing tones circular and full through notes on a steel tongue drum seem to  
quiet the accordion's song and then more scrapings begin. Is that  
the sounds of thick metal wires upon each other or a rubbing across a hallowed  
ambiguity?

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Tap, tap, tap, tap... a bit different now, as the gentle pounding of an electric typewriter  
either reveals the hesitancy of writing or the joy of non-sequitur gibberish unbound.

Clunk, click, clack sporadically in the background while the fingers get even busier  
as their textual movements cross-dissolve  
with the gestural pounding of piano keys expressing a spirit lost  
between the playful sounds of Chopsticks and the theme song to Jaws.

A shrill squeak entangles itself in the background like the noise of an unidentifiable  
animal. The piano is joined by breathy inhalation/exhalation sounds swirled through a  
tube of reverb...

and a melodic undercurrent is registered.

The sounds of the keys quiet then come back for a spin around the scales.  
Intermittent typewriting noises eventually emerge from the background with subtle  
allures of a steel tongue drum.

Resounded metal scrapings return joined by the cooing of doves that seems to turn  
towards their impression of a hyena's laughter. The ringing of steel tongue drums  
cycles briefly and are then punctuated by  
the percussive sounds of wooden mallets oscillating with a repetitive set  
of metallic notes.

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Machine gun speed typing briefly occurs before the ding sound at the end of a line finishes it.

The accordion finds its rhythm again.

Its sounds slow towards thunderous rumbles ushering in the return of the meditation bowl's ring and the light melodious notes of the steel tongue drum's reverberations again.

The trickling of a creek

crawls into the soundscape as the drum song winds out.

A few last subtle breathes of the accordion make its last sighs.

The instruments subside with a chirp and the babbling brook fades to silence.