

Program note

TENEBRAE (2022-23) is a music theatre work for voice, trumpet, violin, electronics, light design, and video which explores the relationship between the human voice and technology, an intermedial dialogue between human and artificial centred around the topic of the historical and social fascination with the end of the world. The work consists of 5 distinct scenes – as well as a prologue, 2 brief video interludes and an epilogue –, each drawing from different literary-musical sources and exploring different stages of the voice's connection to technology.

Its title, Tenebrae, is the Latin word for darkness or obscurity, which is also the name of the office sung during the Holy Week at which the Crucifixion is commemorated by the gradual extinguishment of candles. This provides an explicit reference towards Christian religion, some symbols and elements of which – in particular those in relationship with the biblical end of times, but also the Tenebrae celebration itself – constitute an important part of the work. However, its literal meaning of darkness is also of great importance, since the work aims to approach the stage as a dynamic entity, an ever-morphing and fluid environment shaped through interconnected layers of performance, sound and light – as well as darkness – to create a unified and immersive experience.

Duration: c. 60'

Personnel

José del Avellanal Carreño – composition, light design, performance

Petra Barbarić – performance

Matthias Müller – performance

Oğuz Namal – assistance with electronics

Beat Müller – sound technician

Technical requirements

Laptop 1 (running Ableton Live and QLab)

Laptop 2 (running PowerPoint)

Wireless headset microphone (for voice)

2 wireless clip microphones (for violin and trumpet)

Clip microphone (for automated violin)

2 wireless in-ear monitors (for violinist and trumpeter)

Monitor (for singer)

2 video beamers (must have shutter)

Arduino Uno board with Servo motor

Talkbox

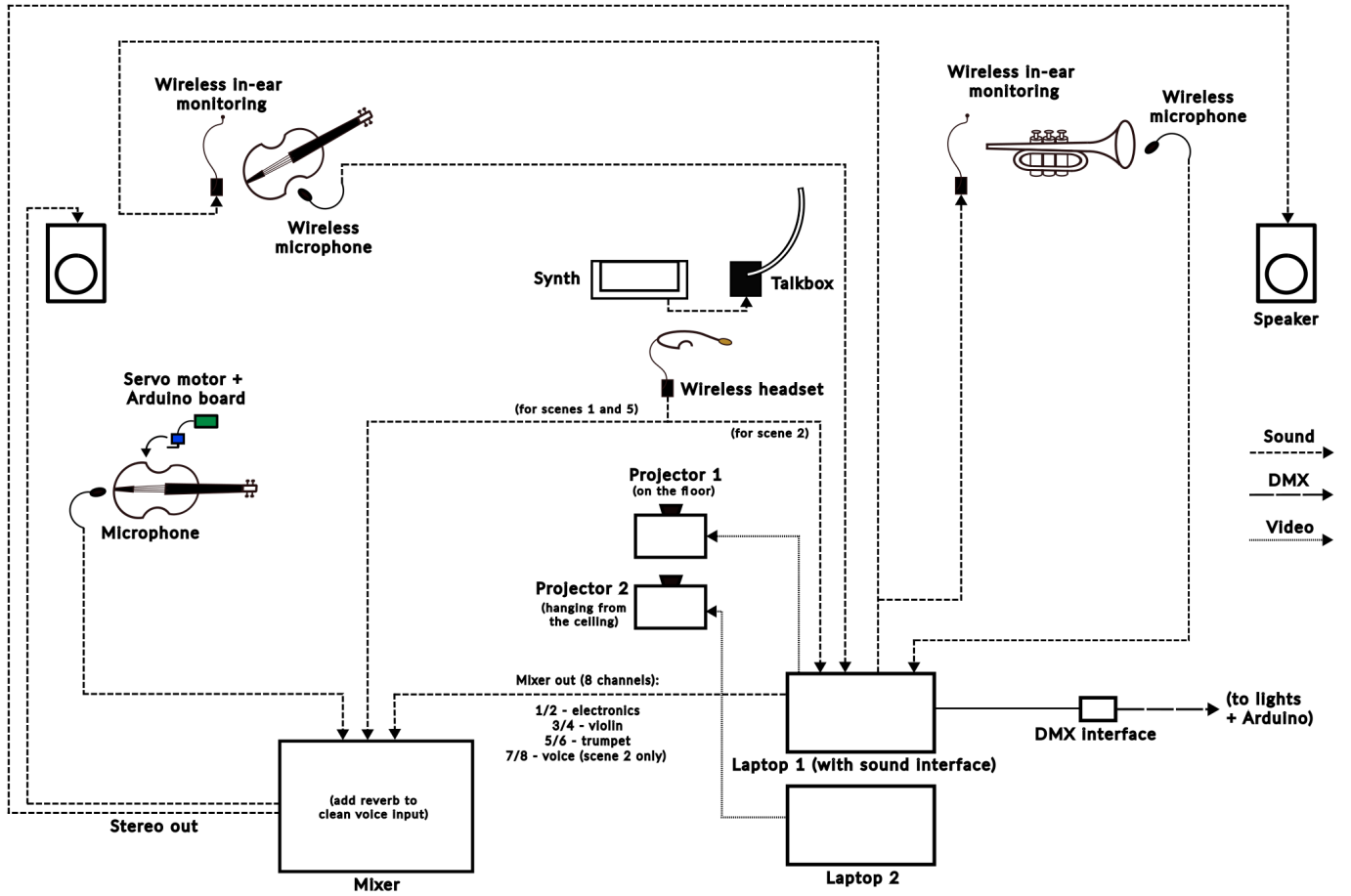
Small keyboard synthesiser

DMX interface

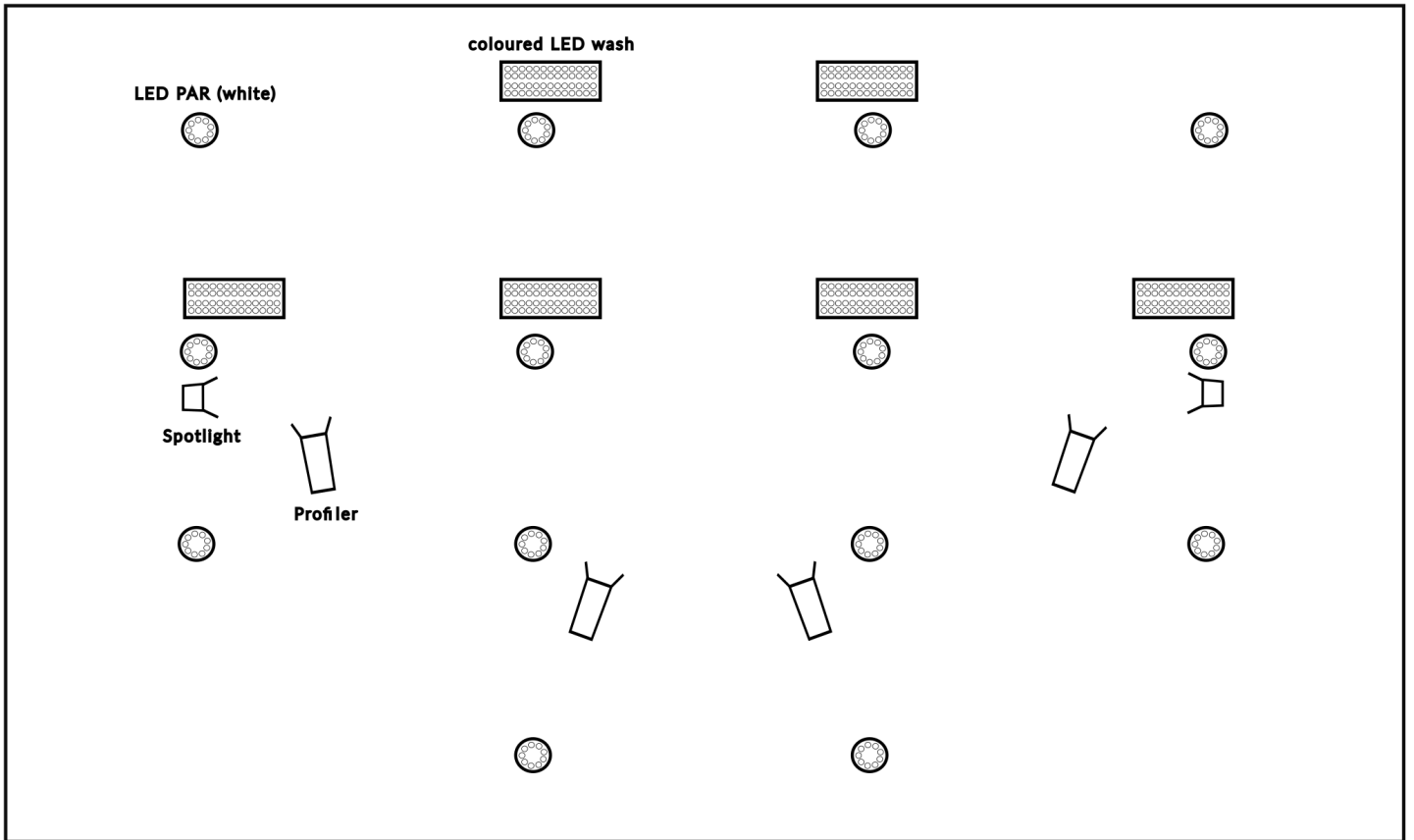
Mixer

Lights (see light plan)

Technical rider



Light plan



Stage plan

