

85 Seconds with Pauline

Craig Shepard

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A listening exercise consisting of seventeen five-second moments spread throughout a day.

Choose a day in the future.

Determine the time of the sunrise, solar noon, and sunset at your location.

These are the first, ninth, and seventeenth listening moments.

Schedule the remaining fourteen moments evenly throughout the day: seven between sunrise and solar noon, and seven between solar noon and sunset.

At each scheduled moment, stop, and listen for five seconds.

Then, write down everything you heard.

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New York City

Written for the IPLAI celebration
of the life of Pauline Oliveros

85 seconds with Pauline

Time plan: June 1st, 2017, Montréal Québec

5:09 am - sunrise

1:58 pm

6:15 am

3:04 pm

7:21 am

4:10 pm

8:27 am

5:16 pm

9:33 am

6:23 pm

10:40 am

7:29 pm

11:46 am

8:35 pm - sunset

12:52 pm - solar noon

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December 21, 2016, New York City

- 7:17 am sunrise I hear the last few sizzles in the pan, the mid hum of the fridge, and the whirr of the bathroom fan.
- 7:57 am I hear the whirr of the bathroom fan, with an occasional skip
- 8:37 am I hear the whirr of the bathroom fan; it skips twice.
The cat crunches kibble.
- 9:17 am I hear the hush of a fountain, the pulsating drone of an idling garbage truck, and the squeal of breaks.
- 9:57 am I hear a computer mouse clicking, tapping on a computer keyboard, a low calm voice speaking on the phone, and the slight hush of central heating.
- 10:37 am I hear two halves of conversations, each speaking to someone else on the telephone, and the slight hush of central heating.
A third begins. Keyboards tap.
- 11:16 am I hear computer key boards tapping, a distant siren, and a single cough.

- 11:56 am
solar noon I hear stainless steel chafing dishes clank, the indistinguishable chatter of twenty five or more simultaneous conversations, and a snippet of Spanish.
- 12:36 pm I hear paper crackling, cellophane crinkling, and intermittent tapping on a computer keyboard.
- 1:16 pm I hear a woman's contralto "OK, perfect" the swish of cloth moving against cloth, the rustle of a plastic bag, and the crinkle of paper.
- 1:55 pm I hear two distinct conversations: two men, and two women. I hear footsteps thumping on a raised floor, and the flap of a single page turn.
- 2:35 pm I hear a male voice on the phone; half of a conversation, and distant chatter. I hear a high sheen from central heating.
- 3:14 pm I hear the high sheen of central heating and the metallic voice of a friend speaking to me through the telephone.
- 3:53 pm I hear three halves of conversations, a digital telephone ringing, and footsteps thumping on a raised floor.
- 4:33 pm
sunset I hear a heated discussion on the other side of a closed door; the cadence and volume, and only occasionally an individual word. I hear clicking and whirring of a printer warming up.