

# Regarding chickens, death

for Mark Menzies

from Carolyn Chen

The material of the piece is the weight in your arms. Birds have mass. They try to fly. No one is a flawless flier. Breath slowly. Try to be compassionate. Play without score.

(L.H.)

Fingers start here:

(R.H.)

Bow light, constant, not tied to breath, but responsive to:

I. 4 breaths



Finger pressure rising and falling with breath. Finger position may drift slightly if breath is held still.

1 wing-clipped bird tethered to tip, entering amidst third breath, dissolving before the fourth.



wing-clipped bird

II. 6 breaths



Finger pressure rising and falling with breath. Fingers slip very slowly, continuously toward a lower position, unless breath is held still.

2 young birds drop in at beginning - spry, small, recently descended from a carnival ride. Larger one - doddery, heavier - enters later.



doddery spry

III. 6 shorter breaths



Finger pressure rising and falling with breath. Downward slipping inexorable. With still breath, fingers can lift or stay. Returning to higher position possible if perfect intervals sound.

3 drunken chickens enter in their own time and accumulate at the wrist, elbow, upper arm. With time, each is sobered, then penitent, then gradually replaced with a chicken made of dust.

IV. Moment of silence

Rest.

(Or pray.)

V. Very slowly (absolute)

every note a world