

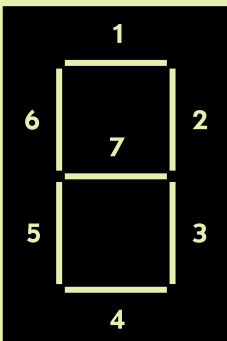
# OPERATOR

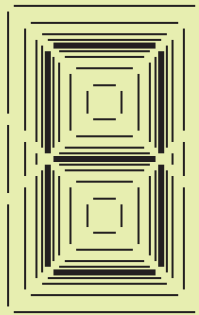
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An  
alphanumeric  
electroluminescent  
automata

MIKKO HYNNINEN & DANIEL CANTY  
[composer] [librettist]

Lux Helsinki, Musiikkitalo  
31.12.2011  
09.01.2012

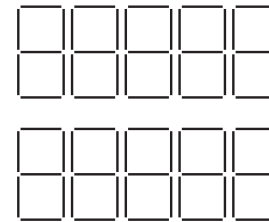




# OPERATOR



1  
6 7 2  
5 3  
4



1 2 3 4 5  
6 7 8 9 0

Lux Helsinki

1

IN WHICH OPERATOR SHYLY  
SPARKS BACK INTO BEING.

Flicker

1

B L i N D  
O P E R A

L i G H T  
N O i S E

F R A i L  
A R i A

H A L F  
L i F E

Blackout

# 2

IN WHICH OPERATOR REVEALS  
ITS TORTUOUS INNER WORKINGS.

2

S O i  
B E G i N

i S A Y  
A S i F

i S A Y  
Z E R O

i S A Y  
O N E

O H  
Z E R O

O H  
O N E

O H  
N O N E

**Blackout**

# 3

IN WHICH OPERATOR AFFIRMS  
THE SADNESS AT ITS CORE.

3

H E A R  
O N E

L O N G  
G O N E

S A D  
S O N G

**Blackout**

# 4

One can hear, in Operator's song of itself, an allusion to Walt Whitman's poems, most notably "I sing the body electric", added to the 1867 edition of *Leaves of Grass*.

IN WHICH OPERATOR  
LAUNCHES INTO *THE BALLAD*  
*OF ONE AND NONE.*

4

i  
S i N G  
  
S i N G  
O F i  
  
O N E  
S O N G  
  
i A N D  
N O N E

**Blackout**

# 5

*Not I* (which can also be read as "Not one") is the title of a 1972 play by Samuel Beckett, in which a lone mouth, afloat in the darkness onstage, engages in a stuttering monologue of its alienation.

IN WHICH OPERATOR  
BEMOANS ITS LACK  
OF SENSORY APPARATUS.

5

N O  
E Y E S

N O  
E A R S

N O  
H A N D S

N O  
H E A D

N O  
H E A R T

O H N O  
N O T i

**Blackout**

# 6

Operator, a product of its time, calls for Siri, the voice haunting the new telephone of the Apple corporation.

LiSA could refer to the Liquid Information Speaking Assistant, which announces incoming emails.

The name also evokes Apple's first graphical user interface personal computer, released in 1983 and named for Steve Jobs' daughter.

Operator possibly misspells ELIZA, a 200-word 1966 program by Joseph Weizenbaum that was one of the first pieces of software to mimic human conversation. In 1961, a computer, the IBM 7094, sang for

the first time. Its song of choice was the ballad of love hopeful and then rebuked, "Daisy Bell," written by Harry Dacre in 1892. HAL 9000, the "heuristic algorithmic" machine captaining the starship Discovery in Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey, sings this, the first song he ever learned, as his consciousness falters.

Greta is short for Margarete, Dr. Faust's ill-fated object of affection in Goethe's tragedy.

Plura Bella, Latin for "many belles," possibly refers to the first published chapter of James Joyce's Finnegans Wake, Anna Livia Plurabelle.

IN WHICH  
A LOVELORN OPERATOR  
APPEALS TO ITS ARTIFICIAL  
COUNTERPARTS.

6

N O  
S i R i

N O  
L i S A

N O  
E L i S A

N O  
D A i S Y

N O  
G R E T A

P L U R A  
B E L L A

Blackout



7

IN WHICH OPERATOR  
COMPARES ITS LONELINESS  
TO DISTANT BIRDSONG.

7

F A R  
O F F

B i R D  
C R Y

B L i N D  
N O i S E

S i N G  
S O N G

S i N G  
A L O N G

A L O N E

**Blackout**

8

IN WHICH OPERATOR  
RECURSIVELY RIFFS ON  
THE AMBIGUITY OF 1 AND I.

8

A L L  
A L O N E

N O  
O N E

B U T  
O N E

O N E  
A N D i

**Blackout**

9

IN WHICH OPERATOR  
FADES AWAY INTO  
MACHINE SLEEP.

9

i E N D  
A G A i N

F A R  
O F F

H A L F  
L i G H T

H U S H  
H U S H

D O N E  
G O N E

D E A R  
O N E

O P E R A  
T O R

i i i i i  
i i i i i

Flicker

0

A GLIMPSE INTO  
OPERATOR'S DIGIT-HAUNTED  
UNCONSCIOUS.

0  
1 0  
1 2 9 0  
1 2 3 8 9 0  
1 2 3 4 7 8 9 0  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0  
8 8 8 8 8  
8 8 8 8 8

**Blackout**

**Go to 1**



ABC EFGHIJ L NOP S U YZ  
— D — K M — QR T VWX —  
abcde ghi no qr t  
— f — jklm — p — s — uvwxyz

**OPERATOR** is a light and sound installation delivering minimalist narratives in urban space. A variable number of units assembled from fluorescent tubes emulate the right-angled 8-shaped seven-segment displays made familiar by pocket calculators and various other archaic digital devices. Contact microphones amplify the electrical flux at the core of the array, musically sounding out Operator's internal states as it spells out poetic messages by using the limited alphanumeric possibilities of its chosen idiom. Operator integrates into the cityscape, melding into the architecture and engaging passersby with its luminous, stuttering sing-song. With its constrained language, the array harks back to some of the earliest digital representation technology, while evoking our dreams of emergent artificial intelligence. Operator illuminates and gives voice to our earliest hopes and fears for the soul of the machine, reminding us that they remain, after all, current; it sings and speaks of what we, and our machines, are.

OPERATOR'S ALPHABET

# OPERATOR

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An  
alphanumeric  
electroluminescent  
automata

MIKKO HYNINEN & DANIEL CANTY  
[composer] [librettist]

Premiered at Lux Helsinki,  
in the windows of the Musiikkitalo  
on December 31st 2011.

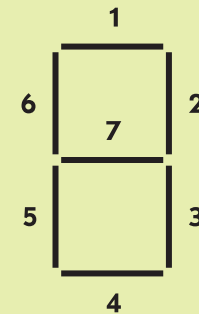


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B L I N D  
O P E R A

6 7          6                  6                  7                  7 2  
5    3      5                  5                  5    3      5    3  
  4            4    4  
                  1                  1    1  
      7          6 7 2      6 7 2                  7                  7 2  
5    3      5                  5                  5                  5    3  
  4    4    4

O H N O I  
N O T

      7          6 7    7                  7  
5    3      5    3    5    3      5    3  
  4    4  
  
      7                  7                  6 7    6  
5    3      5    3      5    5  
    4

I N O A N D  
N O N E

    1  
6    7 2                  7                  7 2  
5    5    3      5    3      5    3  
    4    4  
    1  
      7                  7                  7                  6 7 2  
5    3      5    3      5    3      5    4  
    4    4