

הדבר

(The Word)

For Contralto, Piano, Resonant Gongs and Electronics

Dániel Péter Biró

(2010)

Material Press

**Hadavar (The Word) – Dániel Péter Biró**

***For Contralto, Piano, Resonant Gongs and Live Electronics (2008-2010)***

**Electronics realized by Reinhold Braig, Kirk MacNally and Dániel Péter Biró at the Experimental Studio and the University of Victoria**

**Awarded a Gigahertz Prize from the ZKM Center for Art and Media in Karlsruhe, Germany and the Experimentalstudio in Freiburg, Germany in 2010**

**Text based on the Book of Jeremiah Chapter 34:8-12**

*<sup>8</sup> The word which came to Jeremiah from G'd after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to proclaim a release among them <sup>9</sup> that everyone should set free his Hebrew slaves, both male and female, and that no one should keep his fellow Judean enslaved. <sup>10</sup> Everyone, officials and people, who had entered into the covenant agreed to set their male and female slaves free and not keep them enslaved any longer; they complied and let them go. <sup>11</sup> But afterward they turned about and brought back the men and women they had set free, and forced them into slavery again. <sup>12</sup> Then it was that the word of G'd came to Jeremiah from G'd:*

**Composition**

The rhythmic, formal and sonorous structures of the piece are based on numbers derived from the gematria (number symbolism) of the Hebrew text. In addition electronic spatialization and processing is calculated via gematria. The melodic gestures, based on those of Ashkenazi Haftorah melodies, move in canon while the phonetic pronunciation and micro-tonality are inspired by the Indonesian Qur'an recitation of Hajjah Maria Ulfa.

The electronics for the piece were completed at the Experimental Studio in Freiburg Germany and at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada. I am grateful to Detlef Heusinger Reinhold Braig, and the members of the Experimental Studio and to Kirk McNally at the University of Victoria for their assistance in working on the electronic part of the piece. I am also very grateful to Noa Frenkel for her hard work and inspiration during the creation of the composition.

**Electronic Setup**

Max/MSP patch and Protools file with Midi automation required. Contralto and piano go into MAX/MSP; these are spatialized in the 6-channel setup. Piano and gongs should be amplified with contact microphones. Piano goes into Max/MSP input channel 1 and voice to input channel 2. Gongs go into mixing board input channel 5 and are routed to output channel 5 (loudspeakers 5 and 6). Max/MSP output channels 1-6 go to mixing board inputs/speaker outputs 1-6 (channel 6 is routed to speakers 5 and 6). Protools output channels 1-6 go to mixing board inputs/speaker outputs 1-6 (channel 6 is routed to speakers 5 and 6).

**Speaker Setup**

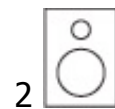
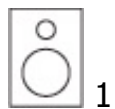
A small (Genelec) loudspeaker goes into the piano (loudspeaker 7 – lid should stay on piano). The 6 remaining loudspeakers should be placed in the room in the following manner:

**Stage**

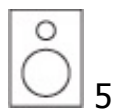
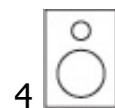
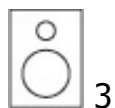


Loudspeaker 7 (in Piano)

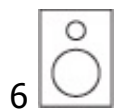
**Voice**



**Audience**



**Gong**

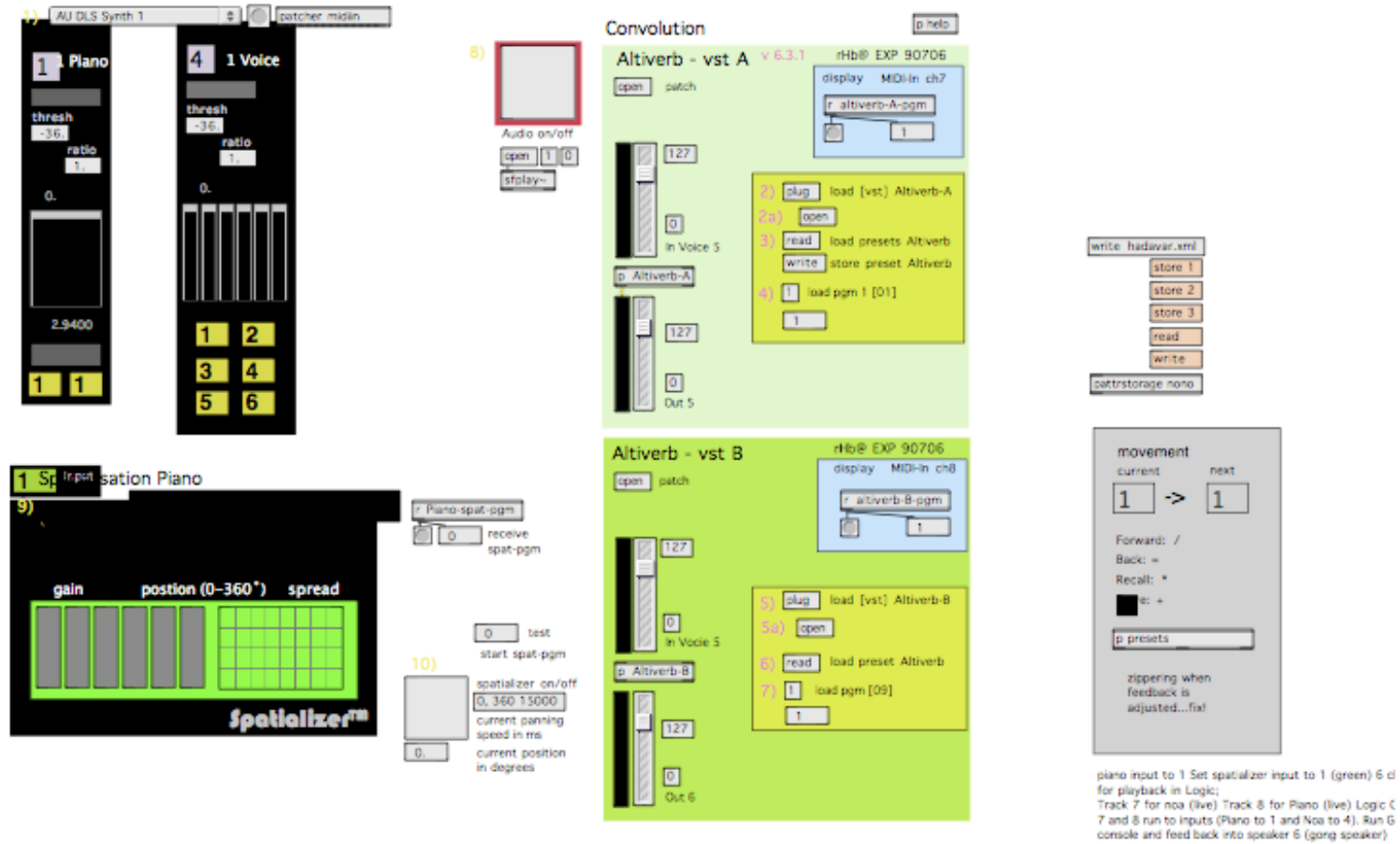


**Gong**

Gongs (with contact microphones) are to be placed in front of Loudspeakers 5 and 6.

## Max/MSP

The piece requires two people to control the electronics. One person controls the patch (convolution and spatialization) while the other controls the gong feedback and volume. Player one opens convolution programs 1A – 6B and player two activates the feedback by opening and closing the gong microphone input (indicated in score). The following patch is required:



The following Help file explains the way to load the sound-files in preparation for the live convolution:

```
00) set in MaxMSP "File Preferences" to "/Hadavar-clean/01-sub"                                rHb @ EXP 900706
comment: only for pictures in help-file and for further programming the path to load
vst-Plugin/presets automatically by startup

0) start patch "** Hadavar_....."
1) set MIDI Input to your hardware / Software connections
2) "plug" load VST-Plugin Altiverb v 6.x (instance A) 
   path: /00-Biro-msp/Hadavar-clean/01-sub/Altiverb-IR/VST-Plugin/Altiverb-6-A.vst
   comment: wait ca. 4 sec, till you see in Max window "Altiverb-6-A.vst has 38 parameters"

2a) open VST-GUI 
2b) "Select oher IR Folder....Rescan" ----->

3) load Presets Altiverb 
   path: "/00-Biro-msp/Hadavar-clean/01-sub/Altiverb-IR/Preset/for MaxMSP-vst/....."
   comment: There is only one preset for both Altiverb-inst ances ! But you have to load the same preset in

4) load programm 1 Altiverb-A 
5) load VST-Plugin Altiverb v 6.x (instance B) 
   path: /00-Biro-msp/Hadavar-clean/01-sub/Altiverb-IR/VST-Plugin/Altiverb-6-B.vst
   comment: wait ca. 4 sec, till you see in Max window "Altiverb-6-A.vst has 38
parameters"
5a) open VST-GUI 
5c) "Select oher IR Folder....Rescan" ----->

6) load Preset Altiverb 
   path: "/00-Biro-msp/Hadavar-clean/01-sub/Altiverb-IR/Preset/for MaxMSP-vst/....."
   comment: There is only one preset for both Altiverb-inst ances ! but you have to load the
same preset in Altiverb-A and Altiverb-B

7) load programm 1 = Altiverb-B [09] 
8) start dac "Audio on"
comment: wait ca. 5 sec til it is on
open Altiverb-GUI, to check, if the preset-slots 01- 6 (for Altiverb-A) and 9 - 14 are white, means loaded

< - [01] to [08] Presests for Altiverb-A
< - [09] to [16] Presests for Altiverb-B

some altiverb-IR's are Reverse !!, you will hear it after 20 secs

check altiverb sound out, by clicking to to instrument - symbol

9) set "spatializer" in to "1"
10) "spatializer on"
```

# הדבר The Word

for Contralto, Piano, Resonant Gongs and Electronics  
(Performance Score)

Dániel Péter Biró

♩ = 96

**A** הדבר

whispered *ppp*  $\rightarrow$  *pp* half whispered *pppp* חיה inhaled *ppp*  $\rightarrow$  *pp* ירמיהו inhaled *ppp*  $<$  *pp* half whispered throat-tremolo *pp*  $\rightarrow$  *pppp* מאח

ha - - - d v - ha-i-a-i-a-i yi-r-ya -

whispered *ppp*  $\rightarrow$  *pp* inhaled *ppp*  $<$  *pp* אל half spoken *pppp* half whispered throat-tremolo *pp*  $\rightarrow$  *pppp*

ha r ha-l me-hu

Pedal  $\rightarrow$

Gongs

Max/MSP

חמלך

יחיה *ppp* inhaled  $\rightarrow$  *p*  $\rightarrow$  *pp*  $\rightarrow$  *p*  $\rightarrow$  *pp*  $<$  *p* אחרי inhaled *ppp* כרח inhaled *ppp* חמלך inhaled *ppp*  $\rightarrow$  *pp*  $\rightarrow$  *pp*  $\rightarrow$  *p*  $\rightarrow$  *pp*  $<$  *p*  $\rightarrow$  *pp*  $<$  *p* צדקיהו inhaled *pp*  $\rightarrow$  *p* whispered *mp*

a-d-n-n-n-n-i-i-i-i a-kh r-r-r o- ha ts-i-ki-ya-hu

*ppp* inhaled inhaled *ppp* whispered *p* inhaled *ppp* whispered *mp* *ppp* ord.

a- a- k-k-k-t kh d

Pno. *mp*



עברו

אח 9:8 inhale p

דבר יחוח 9:8 pp ppp

ואיש 9:6 inhale p

אח 6:4 p > pp < p

24 Voice t do - da-var a - do-nai i - sh e - e - e - e -

Elec. 6:4 p > pp < p 3:2 inhale p < p 9:8 p ppp 9:6 inhale 6:8 ppp < p 6:4 p

e - e - e - e - av - e - e - e - e - ve - sh t

Pno. 9:8 mp 9:8 Ped.

Gong pp ppp

MSP Program 1 - B

שפחות 19:20 5:3 p > pp < p 10:9 p > pp 5:4 f

חעברי 17:20 3:2 p > pp pp < mp

וחעבריה 19:14 17:18 15:16 inhale pp < pp pp < mp pp > ppp

29 Voice sh - f(a) hk(a) - t e - l i - v - ha - i - v - r - é

Elec. 5:3 p > pp < p 19:20 p > pp < p 17:20 throat vib. ppp > ppp 19:14 17:18 15:16 pp < p p > pp pp <

e - e - e - e to-o-o-o ha- ré ve - ha - i - ah

Pno. 19:20 5:4 19:20 5:4

Gong ppp

לבלחי

33 חפשים 13:10 hka - shi-m

אל ירמיהו 13:10 f - to 13:12 el yir-mé-yá-hu 9:8 v-v-v-d-d-d 13:12 a - 9:8 m -

hka - f - l-l-v-v-kh-a l - shi-m a - b-b-b-m-m-m v-v-v-d-d-d

Pno. *pp* *pp*

Gong *pp* *ppp*

38 ביחודי מאת יהוה 5:3 hu - di 4:5 אחיהו throat tremolo b - ye hu - 5:3 איש p > pp e - sh 3:2 וישמעו 7:4 i - 3:2 ויהי 7:6 i - m-m-m-u-u-u 3:5 va - ye - hi

be - ye - a - khi hu - di i - v - v - v - v - yi - sh - sh -

Pno. sounding *p* *pp*

Gong

MSP

Program 2 - A



כל חשרים וכל

45 *p > pp < p* *mf* *mp* *mp* *p* *f* *f* *p* *pp* *p*

9:5 6:4 7:4 6:4 8:5 6:5 3:5 6:5 11:12 7:6

Voice v - v - v - v - ha - ko - l r - i - m s - r - k - k - k - l - l - l -

Elec. *mp* *mp* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mf* *mp*

6:4 3:2 7:4 6:4 8:5 6:5 11:12 6:5

inhaled  
ko - l - yi - sh m - m - m - u - u - u s - r - ha - v -

העם אשר באו

48 *p > pp < p* *mf* *p* *pp* *mp* *mp* *f* *mp*

11:6 9:6 12:7 11:10 7:6 7:6 7:6

Voice ha-ha-ha-ha-ha ha - v - m - da-vár a-do-nai a r- b-a-u

Elec. *mp* *mp* *p* *p > pp < p* *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

11:6 9:6 12:7 11:10 7:6 11:10 6:4 7:6

r - i - m a - k - k - k - l - l - l - ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha a - m ha

Pno. *pp* *p*

Program 2-B

MSP *pp* *p*

בברית לשלה באח יחוח

52 *p > pp < p* *f* *p > pp < p* *pp* *mp* *f* *mf < f* *pp* *p*

7:6 9:10 13:10 5:3 3:2 17:16 7:6 3:2 6:7

Voice b - b - b - v - v - v - m - i - i - i - t e - l yir-mé-yá - hu li r- l - hk - mé - e - t a - do nai

Elec. *f* *f* *p* *mp* *p* *p > pp < p* *p* *p > pp < p* *p*

9:10 13:10 5:3 17:16 3:2 3:2 3:2 7:6 3:2

r - b - li v - v - v - v - v - r - sh - sh - sh - sh - sh - l - i - i - i - t

Pno. *f*

Program 3 - A

MSP *f*







ואת חשפחות אל ירמיחו

81

mf > mp < ff 7:4 11:8 5:4 mp > pp inhale f ff > pp 4:5 p

va - ya - e - t - ha - shi o - t e l yir - mé - yá - hu

3:2 inhale p > pp < p f < mp > pp ff > pp p > pp < p 7:4 11:8 6:4 11:8 13:8 6:4

e - e - e - e shi - v - v - u - u va - ya - sh - f - hk - v - v - u - u

Pno. 6:4 6:4 pp p

Gong ppp

אשר שלחו באח יחוח חפשים

84

6:5 4:5 mp ff > pp f 7:6 5:4 5:4 mf > mp p > pp < p > pp < p 7:4 5:4 pp > p inhale f < ff 7:5 10:8 3:2 4:5 mp > pp f > pp 7:5 7:5 3:2 4:5 mp f > pp ff 7:5 7:5 3:2

a - sh - sh - f - hk - r - shi - l - l - l - l - hku - hku - hku - hku - mé - e - t a - do - nai sh f - sh - i - m

ha - o - t a - sh r a - kha r -

Pno. 6:5 7:6 5:4 4:5 7:4 5:4 21/16 21/16 7:5 7:5

Gong ppp

MSP 3/4 4/4 21/16 5/4

Program 5 - A

ויכבִּישׁוּם      לאמר      לעבִּדִים

88 *ff* *pp* *mp* *p > pp < p* *p* *pp* *f* *pp* *p > pp < p*

9:8 7:5 3:2 9:11 8:6 9:6 5:4

Voice kha - vé - sh-sh-m-m - lé - mor va - yi - k - d-d-i - i-m-m

Elec. *ff* *pp* *ff* *p* *f* *inhaled* *mf* *pp* *mp* *ff* *p > pp < p*

9:8 7:5 7:5 3:2 8:6 6:5 9:6 5:4

va-yi - f - shi - m l - vé - av - sh-sh-um-m

Pno. *p* *p* *pp* 9:11 9:11

Gong *pp*

וּלְשַׁפְּחוּת      וַיְהִי      וַיְהִי      דָּבָר

91 *ff* *pp* *mf > mp* *p > pp < p* *mp* *pp* *inhale* *pp < f* *f* *mp* *pp* *inhale* *f*

17:14 8:5 5:4 9:7 11:12 6:8 3:2

Voice va - yi - k - f-hk-ot sh-sh-u-m va - ye - hi ve - li - sh - ye-hi ve - ye - hi da

Elec. *f* *ff* *mp > pp* *mp > pp* *mf > pp* *mf > pp* *mf* *ff*

17:14 3:2 9:7 11:12 4:3 3:2

ve - li - sh - vé - va - f-hk-ot va - ye-hi -

Pno. *p* *pp* *mp*

Gong *ppp* *pp*

**Program 5 - B**

MSP 7/4 23/16 4/4 6/4 4/4

דבר                      אל ירמיחו                      יחוח                      אל                      ירמיחו

96                      25                      16                      13

8                      8                      8                      8

mp > p   p > pp < p   f   pp   mf   mp > pp < p   p > pp < p   mp < mf   ff   mp < mf   ff   mp > pp < p   ff   mf

ye-hi   el   yir - mé - yá - hu   va - d - d - n - n - ai - ai   e - ye-hi   va - mé

4:3   7:4   5:3   7:4   5:3   7:4   5:3

mp > p   p > pp < p   f < ff   f   mp < mf   ff   inhale   f   ff   inhaled

va -   v - v - v - r - r - r -   a -   ye-hi   va -   l -   yir -   ye-hi -

Pno.   pp   mp   mf

Gong   ppp

**F**                      מאת יחוח

101                      13                      3:2                      3:2

8                      8                      8                      8

mp   ppp   f   inhale   p   p > pp < p   ff   p > pp < p   p > pp < p   ff   p > pp < p   p > pp < p   ff   inhale

mé - et   a - do - nai - lé - moi   yir - é - é - é - hu   mé - mé - mé - mé -   d - d - n - n - ai - ai - t -

6:4   9:6   11:8   6:4   9:6   5:4   3:2

p > pp < p   mf   mp   p   p > pp < p   p > pp < p   inhale

mé - mé - mé - mé   mé -   t -   a - a - a - a   é - é - é - é -   lé

Pno.

Gong   pp   ppp

**Program 6 - A**

MSP   13   3/4   3/4