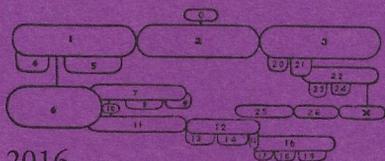


# President Trump

For two singers and  
two looper pedals  
with microphones

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A Present Tense Pamphlet

## **President Trump, For two singers and two looper pedals with microphones**

(Any loop station with a microphone input can be used to record the first loop. The second loop station requires reverse and half-speed capacities. Additional instruments for improvisation throughout optional.)

[Record backing track on looper: sing a baseline on a neutral syllable such as “da-dum,” record percussion over this loop using shakers or another percussion instrument of your choice. Feel free to leave the texture sparse for this backing track, or record additional layers, such as “ooh” or another vowel sung in oscillating minor thirds]

[First singer over backing track through second looper, harmonizer optional, recommended interval: minor sixth]

*What will the United States of President Trump look like?*  
*What will the United States of President Trump sound like?*  
*Will I be here?*  
*Will you be here?*  
*Will we be gone?*

*Get your Visa now, who knows if they will want you back*  
*Get your Green Card now*

[Record President Trump loop into second looper pedal]  
*What will the United States of President Trump look like?*  
[Play loop]

[Second singer begins descant over loop without effects]  
*Land of the free, where we're afraid* (repeat until the Polish national anthem)

[Play President Trump loop in reverse]

[First singer speaks into microphone with or without effects]

Laurie Anderson reflected on the US national anthem in 1989.

[Read “B Side of the National Anthem” excerpt from Laurie Anderson’s *Stories from the Nerve Bible*]

“Now I have to say I really like “The Star Spangled Banner.” It is hard to sing though, with all those arpeggios. [Second singer breaks out of descant to caricature the dramatic, patriotic singing of the opening arpeggio in anthem: *Oh, say can you see?!*]

I mean you’re out at the ballpark and the fans are singing away and it’s sort of pathetic really watching everyone try to hold on to the melody.

[Second singer resumes descant]

The words are great though. Just a lot of questions written during a fire. Things like:

-Hey! Do you see anything over there?

-I dunno, there’s a lot of smoke.

-Say, isn’t that a flag?

-Hmmm. Couldn’t say really, it’s pretty early in the morning.

-Hey! Do you smell something burning?

I mean, that’s the whole song! It’s a big improvement over most national anthems though, which are 4/4 time. (We’re number one! This is the best place!)”

Poland's national anthem is in 4/4 time, but it was written during a time when Poland had disappeared from the map for 123 years. It is an anthem about returning to a nation that doesn't exist.

[Turn off President Trump loop and backing track loop, second singer stops singing descant]

[Sing a capella, without effects, preferably without microphone]

*Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła,  
Kiedy my żyjemy.  
Co nam obca przemoc wzięła,  
Szablą odbierzemy.*

*Marsz, marsz, Dąbrowski,  
Z ziemi włoskiej do Polski.  
Za twoim przewodem  
Złączym się z narodem.*

[Turn both loops back on]

In early 2016, after extensive negotiations, Poland pledged to admit 7,000 refugees. On March 23rd, Polish Prime minister Beata Szydlo announced that Poland is no longer prepared to accept any refugees. This agreement was dissolved following the terrorist attacks in Brussels.

[Sing with harmonizer]

*Where will they go? Where will they live? Where will we  
love?*

[Turn everything off except President Trump loop reversed, at half speed, for as long as desired]



Mashinka Firunts & Danny Snelson, eds.  
The Block Museum | Northwestern University  
Department of Art History | Mellon Dance Studies  
The Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities  
<http://sites.northwestern.edu/present>