

12 Tones of Tumult

A Comedy Nicholas Syrianus Katsafanas

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Act I

Honestly? Maybe Bumble? Yeah dad

Maybe try Bumble? You believe this Alcibiades? Fuckin Match dot com

I signed up for it right? Now you pay for that? Match dot com? Yeah

Yeah

Me personally? I paid a buck twenty five for three months

So it's like a bulk pricing thing

But there's really nobody local on it for him

To me that's the problem! But I don't have any problem driving an hour for a beautiful woman Bahira

Right

Dana

She was in what

Jersey or some shit? Jersey?! No she was from Jersey

She lived in California! Exactly

even more to my point

So an hour drive

That's nothing to you! No

The real problem is my dad doesn't know how to talk to women

He'll say the exact thing any woman does not want to hear

And it'll be the first thing he says! I've been really attracted to black women of late

Oh really? I don't know

Just maybe the last three months or so

I've just

Maybe I've just started coming across more beautiful black women

It's mysterious to me really

I just really wanna have sex with a black girl

But you know

Like an attractive one! Let me ask around

Ryan told me Silver Foxes is for an older crowd

That's an app too

But even Bumble you can set the age thing to like

Something like 50-65

Which would probably be right up your alley

That's what I have my Match set to right now! See?
That's perfect! That's serendipitous! Yeah

I mean

The thing with Match is sure

Paying for an app hypothetically weeds out a certain demographic

In theory at least

Maybe the riffraff or what not

They get filtered out

I get that

But when there are a dozen other free dating apps

I just wonder if there aren't enough people using Match

To make it actually worth it

maybe you actually want the riffraff! plus

In terms of actual riffraff quote-unquote

I mean how many 50 plus women are just looking to fuck? Acting like total little whooirs? Who are you really weeding out? I feel like most of them

These old ladies

They probably want fuckin real companionship

No? They want a man to wine and dine them

You're not just totally hoe-ing out post menopause and shit

Right? Oh no

I totally agree! What the fuck is this guy

Over there

Fuck is this guy doing over there? Who? Over there? This guy

Fuckin guy over there

He's been texting like a

Whole damn paragraph to his mom

At least the message window is addressed to quote unquote mom

That's what it says

He's been typing for like ten minutes

Oh I see him

Alcibiades

He looks like he's about to pass out

He looks like he has about three brain cells

Look at this one? She just replied to me

She looks good

Wait a little bit before you reply back

And don't say anything too offensive! Yeah

I won't ask if she has a clit ring until a few messages in

That's funny Jake

It's all fun and games until you haven't been laid in three years

That's literally driven people to become mass murderers

Jake

Like public shooters and shit

That's what's in your future potentially

Keep joking about this clit ring shit and see what happens to you

Alcibiades

Have you checked your MUFON email lately? Not since last night

I don't think? Hold on

Let me check this shit

Real quick

Oh shit

The fuck is this Bahira? What am I looking at? A new case file right? You two

You guys really believe in that shit?! Aliens? Like from outer space? It's complicated

But basically yeah

That's the gist of it

But even that

That's an oversimplification

You know? Because the phenomena takes many different forms

It expresses itself in a deep multitude of ways

It can't just be reduced simply to

Oh aliens and shit

From frickin like

Uhhhh

outerspace? That's a gross simplification

Really

In my opinion

You have to go back to the origins of Neoplatonism

And how it gapped in a way that was hardly even noticeable to most

Right into Islam

If we're speaking in the purely monadic sense

Of jinn and the henads of Proclus and shit

What

Like terrorism you mean? Does any of this have to do with The War on Terror? But Alcibiades

The email! Oh right

Of course

Yeah

So what are we looking at here? Piano teacher in

What the fuck? Burrillville? Ugh

Are we gonna have to drive all the way up there? Finish reading please! So he thinks his piano is experiencing paranormal activity? That's

A little peculiar no? Yet a welcome divergence from yet another jackass who has footage of a faint light in the sky that he thinks might be a flying saucer

Act II

Well it all started

I guess it began when I was playing my piano last Tuesday

Then all of the sudden

I don't know

It seemed out of tune all of the sudden

Now is that

Not at all

This is a purely digital piano

In theory it should never be out of tune

In theory it should be physically impossible for it to be out of tune

It should always correlate to the twelve tone standard

The twelve tone equal temperament

An octave divided into 1200 cents

And each semitone residing exactly 100 cents apart

Are you familiar with music theory at all detectives? We're actually from MUFON

We're not technically

No but we are technically

Technically we're considered detectives Bahira

Don't sell us short

And yes Mr Wolpe

I'm generally familiar with the concept of microtonality Yes

The particular frequencies that are correlated to physical pitch

Excellent detective! So then you are familiar

Okay

but let's not get bogged down in the details too deep to start? Mr Wolpe

What exactly is occurring that moved you to reach out to an organization like MUFON? Like for example

Middle C occurs at 261 63 hertz

while Middle A

In the fourth octave

Occurs at exactly 440 hertz

Yet in theory there are 900 quote-unquote cents between them

Exactly detective! But to your point

Bahira

Is it? What moved me

The reason I gave your organization a call was because

Well it was for two reasons

For one

Again

What's happening to my piano should be physically impossible

This piano is

According to its manufacturer

And I've verified this

It's physically incapable of producing microtones

Yet that's exactly what it's been doing! And not only any microtones

It's not simply irrationally out of tune

I calculated the exact microtonalities that this piano is producing and they correlate almost exactly with certain

How should I phrase it? Ancient microtonal scales? Which we can address at a later time I suppose

Details being placed on hold momentarily

For two

It's my personal belief

Due to the nature of sound itself

That pitch is an actual physical phenomena

That the movement of sound must necessarily be of a physical nature

So ipso facto then

If this piano is producing microtonal scales it's incapable of in theory producing

Then there must be a physical force behind it

A physical force with at least a modicum of intelligence

Because if these microtones are in fact correlating to historical human scales then I think it's no leap in logic to assume that this physical force must be of a certain intelligent nature

So there's an intelligence operating in your digital piano basically? As I said

To me it's no leap in logic to presume so! As crazy as that may sound

No pun intended

Interesting

Okay

so this is intriguing

Maybe it is time we

Um

Delve into some detail? I just wanted to make sure

Ugh

You see

The thing is

I actually have a student coming over in about five minutes? I'm actually using this opportunity to teach a few lessons in microtonal piano? I've been able to double my hourly rate by doing so! Would it be possible to come back later tonight? Or I could even meet you two if that's easier

Yeah

if you could do that then uh
That would be great
Bahira why don't we go grab a bite
Then Mr Wolpe can meet us after

Let's plan for Parkside around 8

I'll make sure we have a table by the window

Act III

So this really is an interesting one isn't it? I don't know

This guy could be a bit of a loon

Don't you think? That's just

Honestly? It's probably

With all due respect

Because you don't understand music theory Bahira

Really Alcibiades? That's what you think? I think it's potentially a contributing factor

Personally

I don't need to know music theory to know when a person isn't all there

When there's maybe a screw loose

Here or there

And this guy? This isn't UAP-related Alcibiades

I think this guy could just be taking advantage of a glitch in his digital piano

Then using it jack up his hourly rate

Then using us to either corroborate his story

Or get some free press

Or both

I'm usually all ears for a guy trying to scam people

That's my wheelhouse generally speaking

I think the majority of human beings

They're essentially shills

But this guy? Eh

I don't know

There's something about this guy

That vibes legit

That vibes he could be telling us the truth

Because sound

Like he said

Is in fact a physical process

It takes place in space

A lot of people don't really get that

They think oh fuckin quarter notes and mellifluous melodies and power chords

All existing in air

Like gaseous bullshit

Gas is a physical thing too

But you know what I mean

Like physically solid shit

So you think a physical entity is actually manipulating the whatever you call them

Scales

The scales on this guy's piano

Something is manipulating that? I think it's a possibility

I'm not saying I believe him

I'm just saying I don't explicitly disbelieve

At this point

I mean

I'd be interested to see what exactly he comes back with RE: these so-called ancient scales

Which scales is he talking about specifically

Can he name one? Because I actually have decent familiarity with magam music

I'll know at that point if he's bullshitting us

If comes at us with some nonsensical scale

When we start talking scales and shit

If he's trying to fuckin play us I'll call his ass out on the spot

Well here he comes

Mr Wolpe! Great to see you again

Detective uhhh

Luh

Alcibiades

It's all good

It's a mouthful

Right! Alcibiades

And uhhh

Bahira

Great to see you both again

Long time no see

Would you care for a beverage? Hmmm

Let's see here

I'll take a

Ummmm

The chianti sounds good

How about that? I'll flag down the waiter in a second So

How did your lesson go? It can be challenging

While sure

I have some experience with microtonality

It's not exactly my forte

In fact after we're done here I plan on giving myself some further lessons

Brushing up my skills

So the necessary distance remains between myself and my students

Especially if you're charging them double

Of course! Haha

I love learning new music though

So perhaps it's a blessing in disguise

So

Alcibiades and I

Like we told you earlier

We're both intrigued by your case

And we were hoping that you could

Possibly illuminate us as to what scales exactly you believe are being programmed into your piano? By potentially a supernatural entity

I think that's where we left off

Right? Something about ancient scales? Well they're technically

I believe

Called Echoes

Oh

The Octoechos

Yes

They're of Byzantine extraction actually

They're microtonal scales of course

Traditional nomenclature refers to them

As Echoes

I'm actually familiar with them

Believe it or not

Quite familiar

They're adjacent to the Arabic maqams I believe? That's actually exactly correct

In fact

Funny enough

The particular scale my piano is stuck in is the sixth echo

Which is almost identical to the magam known as

Hijazkiar

Exactly! And on the digital portion of the piano

Right above the keys

A curious word was left printed last night

I forgot to mention that earlier

Oh really

What was the word

Yeah

What was it

The word? I actually don't even know for certain

That it was even a word

Specifically it was the letters t-z-e-l-e-p-e-s

Tzelepes

T-z-e-l-e-p-e-s? Tzelepes

Is that how you say it? Correct

And this was left

It was above the keys

On the digital portion of the piano

In the little screen area

Now

Is that something that would usually have a message?

Actually that's another unorthodox aspect here

That particular portion of the piano

It usually only displays the various sorts of piano the instrumental is capable of producing

Harpsichord

Grand piano

Electric piano

And so on

Right right

Typical

Very typical

Except for the fact it's now displaying a series of letters that might be

What? A name? Right

Of course

That aspect is quite atypical

Do either of you

Have any ideas? We'll have to do some research on our end

This is quite mysterious Mr Wolpe

I have to say

Yes

Quite so

But yes

Mr Wolpe

We'll have to do some research on this for sure! You liked that chianti huh? I do enjoy my wines! Don't we all

But okay
So great
So maybe I'll hear from you in the next
Few days? We're going to make this a priority
Yes
If not tomorrow then certainly within a week

Act IV

Fuckkkkkkk

You know

Now that I think of it? We've been drinking

Like all fucking day haven't we? I'm actually

Like super fucked up Alcibiades! And you never get drunk! God

I'm so damn proud of you! I really am Bahira

Really Alcibiades? No

I really am

I'm actually ecstatic right now

Just because you're actually extremely drunk

That you're finally getting totally wrecked on a weeknight with me

For no good reason at all

Getting senselessly drunk

Just like indulging in

You know

Occasional alcoholism

This is great

This is a great step for you

I keep thinking about that fucking Wolpe case! Fucking Wolpe case? Yeah! Tzelepes

That's how you say it? Tzelepes

And the sixth echo

Hmm

This is interesting Bahira

This is actually intriguing

This is confounding in a way that's quite fucking peculiar It's even more peculiar when you're uhhhh

Inebriated

How so? I feel like you're holding back on me Alcibiades

I've felt this holding back since this afternoon

Like you're not telling me something

You know I've lived in this building for ten years now

Really? Ten fucking years

It's a shithole isn't it? Kind of

I mean it has a kind of

Charm to it? A shitty charm

Sure

I was driving by it the other day

This building

I went right to the bank

I took a right

To make a deposit

Then I had to come back and pass this building

On my left

To head downtown

And I thought to myself

You know what I thought? I honestly have no idea Alcibiades

Haha! I asked myself

How many times do you think you've jacked off in that building? Over ten years

That's what came into my head witnessing this building

A decade of beating your meat

Ww! Alcibiades I'm not jacking you off tonight! Is that what you think this is? Is that why you're so pumped I'm like

Drunk? Because don't even think about it! First of all

This is a purely philosophical discussion I'm having Bahira

My penis has nothing to do with this conversation

Like at all

Right now

Second of all

I would never ask you to jack me off

Truly

That's the last thing on my mind right now

Ejaculating

Because technically that's date rape

Not if I asked you to masturbate me and you acquiesced But I'm not acquiescing! And I'm not asking! I just want us to be clear

Because I can't be giving you handjobs then working on MUFON investigations with you

As detectives

As equals

But when I asked myself this question

Honestly? I had no idea where to even begin

I would hope not

But I'm getting to a real fucking point here

Okay

Are you? Listen

I know I jack off

You obviously flick your bean

That goes without saying

That's axiomatic

And I know

Obviously

I've lived here ten years

But to quantify history? On even a projected

An estimated level

Of whacking off

It seemed totally beyond my capabilities Bahira

Even one hundred percent sober it did! I don't know

You might think it's silly

But I actually found it

Quite profound at the time

You're an idiot Alcibiades

What did you end up doing downtown anyway? After philosophically contemplating

How much semen you've expelled in this building

I met up with you and your dad! This was earlier today

Ohhhh! I didn't realize

That it was literally a few hours ago? Right

But tzelepes

Do you

I feel like you have some idea Alcibiades

What this could be

I mean

I'm familiar with the hijazkiar magam

And tzelepes

Yeah

That does sound kind of familiar

Hmm

But I don't know

Granted

Sure

I'm inebriated

Fuckin talking about accumulated whack-offs over a decade long timespan? Ugh

Act V

Did you see that sign

Right as we turned right? Smile you're beautiful? By the stop sign right? Literally pasted

Or glued

To it? Yeah

The one that said smile you're beautiful? Yeah

Exactly

I know that guy

Guy who's always out there

You mean like personally? Well no

Not personally

But it's always the same guy

Well at least the last two times I've driven by

Which maybe that's a small sample size

Homeless guy? Yeah

It looked like he has his own makeshift little spot out there

Little home away from

Well I guess he probably doesn't have a home

Two chairs

Some bags behind them maybe? Yeah

I think I saw that

Honestly? That's all I really need

If it really came down to it

Couple chairs

A few personal belongings

Few fuckin trinkets

Maybe a mini-fridge? I supposed I'd prefer

If possible

To have a roof

Some sort of structure on the top of me I guess? Just in case it rains and stuff

But even that

To me that's even negotiable

I could never

I need all my stuuffff

I like to have my appliancesss

And a closet

You don't use a closet Alcibiades? It's like the older I get

I feel like the less I want things like homes

Personal belongings

Interpersonal relationships

Things of that nature

You don't even want to just like

I don't know

Settle down Alcibiades? Find a nice girl and

What? Toss a bun in the oven? The way the world is Bahira? You kidding me? Piano teachers being forced to learn microtonal scales

Fuckin governments operating in essentially shadow capacities

Do you have any idea

How long have you been associated with MUFON?

Ummmm

I'd say maybe six months now? And how steeped were vou

I was pretty into UFOs and stuff Alcibiades

This isn't like a hobby to me

Okay? I actually had a sighting myself

Did you know that? That's what initially got me into the whole field

Of Ufology? I was tagging along with my uncle on a golf course in Florida

It was a clear blue sky

He was letting me ride along with him in the little golf car

The cart

Whatever

Yeah

Those are fun to drive! Yeah

And all of the sudden

Right in the middle of the clear blue sky

We saw a huge ship! Just sitting there in the air

And all of us looked up at it

My uncle was a fisherman so he didn't know what to even think of it

He wasn't a UFO guy

Like

At all

But to the day he died he never denied seeing it

And what happened? After I don't know

Maybe a minute or so

It just flew off

Like so fast Alcibiades! Just like all the accounts

It was like

Just like a blur in the sky

And then it was gone

Can we help you sir? Are you

Um

Alcibiades? I'm just a guy waiting for an espresso

Who's asking? Ronnie Colombo

Providence Homicide

My name is perhaps legally Alcibiades

Yeah

That's correct

And this is Bahira

Alcibiades! Oh okay

Great

I was looking for you too

Wait

Really? Me? What did I do? Are either of you familiar with a

Uhhhh

Stefan Wolpe? Piano teacher out in Burrillville? Kind of whacked out composer type? We were just with him last night

He filed a case with MUFON

We're both actually MUFON detectives ourselves

MUFON? And what is that? Like Mufongol? Is it an Italian thing? Are you telling me to go fuck myself? What is that like Italian? Mufongol? That's the Italian language? Yeah

I'm a hundred percent Italian

You speak it? What? Italian? Yeah

The Italian language

you speak it? What are we

In Italy? Not to the best of my knowledge

You just said you were Italian

So how long did you know Mr Wolpe

We just met him yesterday afternoon

He was experiencing some atypical activity in his digital piano

That's why he called us

Why

Is he okay? Is everything alright with him? He's dead Oh my god! So what time was your meeting about

What

His digital piano

What time did that conclude? He's dead?! As in physically deceased? Yeah

In that sense

That's why they called me

Because he's a corpse now

So you met him yesterday afternoon

Where? We went over his house

Per his request

But it was a brief meeting

He said he had a lesson coming up

Did he say with who? I don't believe so

It was a student

Sounded pretty impromptu

So you went over there

What maybe fifteen twenty minutes

Talked to him about his digital piano

By the way what are you guys

Like instrument repair people

MUFON actually stands for Mutual UFO Network

It's an independent body cataloging as well as investigating UAP related phenomena? UAP? Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

Like UFOs

Like flying saucers and aliens and shit? That's it

So you're the alien police? That's one way to put it

So what? There was a fuckin flying saucer in this guy's piano? Are you familiar with microtonality? I'm gonna have to ask you to stop saying words I don't know the meaning of

Or else we might actually have a real problem here Well about Mr Wolpe

Without mentioning the word microtonality any further

He was actually experiencing some issues

With regard to his piano reprogramming itself Okav

How is that UFO-related? I was getting to that Mr Colombo

The manner in which the piano was reprogramming itself Shifting its uhhh

Fuckin tones in ways the piano mechanically should have been incapable of doing

It was doing it in a deliberate way

This digital piano

Programming itself to certain scales that made Mr Wolpe believe there was an intelligence behind the reprogramming

That it went beyond a simple software malfunction

Given that non-human intelligence of an unidentified nature generally falls under our purview in MUFON Mr Wolpe reported it to us

Even though said intelligence seemed to be confined to a digital piano

So you saw him that afternoon

And that was it? Kaput? Well we did ask him to meet us later

To discuss in detail the particular scales the piano was being reprogrammed to

I had reason to believe

Because I actually am familiar with microtonality

With the specifics of his piano

I thought if he could give us some additional information on that front? Then I could cross-reference on my end

And did that help? That information? Were you able to what is it

Cross-reference? Is that the phrase? Like you said

Well after he left I actually tied a few on

Got fairly inebriated

Detective? Is that the appropriate

Detective Colombo

Yeah that's fine

That's actually accurate in my case

Right

We're just two detectives discussing a case aren't we? Well Detective Colombo

I actually got fairly shitfaced last night

After Mr Wolpe left

As detectives are occasionally apt to do

So I haven't had a chance to cross-reference any of the details of this gentleman's case quite yet

But I plan to this morning

Right after I get my espresso here at New Harvest

Am I delaying you? Do you drink Detective

Colombo? Is this part of your investigation now? My drinking habits? Not particularly

Yet in our line of work you never know what could be relevant I suppose

Reason I ask is

If you ever get fucked up

If that's something you indulge in from time to time

Then you probably know the next morning's Jo is always essential

So no

You're not delaying me

I'm happy to answer your questions

Yet

Okay then

I have just one more for you two

Then I'll let you both be on your way

Mr Wolpe

Last night? Was he skittish at all? Was there anything in his demeanor that would lead you to believe he was in danger

Or that he believed himself to be in danger

Hard to say detective

Honestly

Like I said

I barely fuckin knew the guy

Well

He did chug his chianti really fast! I did notice that

And did he seem intoxicated? Not to me

He said he had to go home

To prep for the next day's lessons

Yeah

He said

Since these new scales

With all due respect detective? Enough about scales

This isn't a fish market

So Wolpe

He met up with you two

Told you some additional details

Chugged a chianti and went home to allegedly practice his piano more

And

Where was this? Where you met

Parkside

Over on South Main

Oh I love it over there

Yeah I've had kind of a mixed experience myself

Oh I've never had a bad meal there! Right

Yeah

I know plenty of people who say the same

I don't know

It's not like I necessarily dislike it

I wouldn't say I have any ill-will against the place

I just maybe diverge from the universally positive stance on it

I like it there

I had the chicken rotisserie a few years ago

It was pretty good

I like the steak tips

It wasn't a horrible meal

Kind of ho-hum in my opinion though

Yet you went there last night? For a drink sure

We didn't eat

We went to Plant City before

You know what your issue is? Detective

I'd love to find out

You gotta get the pork rotisserie at Parkside

The chicken? That's what you got? No

Fuck that

Never get the chicken

Never get chicken period

If you're paying for a meal out? Never order the chicken

It's a shitty animal

It's an inconsequential bird

Good to know

I didn't realize there was such animosity toward fowl in this city

Anyway

Yeah

The pork is really what you wanna go with over there

Duly noted

Maybe I'll get the steak tips if I ever eat there again

Now

If you don't mind? I'm gonna order a doubleshot? If you want anything?

Act VI

But before you start your spiel

Alcibiades

Look at this

This email

Okay

Let me see

It's

Another piano teacher

Shit

What does that say? The subject line? Atypical piano malfunctions

May be indicative of some sort of intelligence? Okay

Let's go? At least he's local right? Right near Ogie's over there on Westminster? This is giving me major creep vibes now

We're dealing with 12 tones of tumult now Bahira Buckle up

Act VII

So

Mr Cowell

Can you explain to us

Maybe just a little more in depth what's been going on with your piano here? That you believe it would fall under the purview of MUFON? Well initially I wouldn't have

In fact I wasn't even aware of your organization until I was conversing with a peer

Explaining the curious events that had been going on with my Nord-5

Which

If you're unfamiliar with stage pianos? That's in my opinion one of the best on the market

If not the best

Okay

So this was going on for quite some time then? Oh it's been months! It's been terrible

Sure

I'm aware of certain microtonal varieties of music

But I'm essentially classically trained detective

I don't know how deep either of your knowledge bases go into tonality? But I'm almost exclusively twelve tone in my playing

I'm somewhat familiar

In any case

I was sitting down having a late lunch with my friend

He's actually a detective in the homicide division of the city police

Great guy! And I was explaining to him my imbroglio
How my piano kept diverting from the traditional
european intonation

How I'd brought it to almost every piano repair shop in New England and none of them could find anything actually wrong with the instrument

Which was

What was the detective's name? If you don't mind

Oh

My old friend Ron

He's a great man

Italian fellow

A real meatball! In any case

My imbroglio

As I relayed it to my friend

Was that if nothing was wrong with my piano I could never qualify for a replacement from Nord

Yet there certainly is something wrong with my piano

And I simply can't afford to buy a second Nord at the rates I currently charge my students! So as you can imagine

This is catastrophic from a commercial standpoint for you

It's actually a travesty

Now

Is anything else out of sorts

With your piano? Now what do you mean by that exactly? I think what Bahira is alluding to

Is that this isn't our first case

Regarding inexplicable microtonality occurring in digital pianos

Oh really? Now was the detective's

Your friend

Is his last name Colombo by any chance? How many other cases have you encountered

That's actually

Quite disconcerting? Well technically you're only number two

But in our previous case the piano was malfunctioning in other ways as well

Now you said you're not super familiar with microtonal scales

I didn't say I'm unfamiliar detective

I simply said it's not my forte

And your friend's last name is Colombo? I don't see how that's particularly relevant to the case but yes

Why? Do you know him? No

Never met him

Just making an ill-advised Colombo joke I guess

You know

Like the TV show? I agree

It is somewhat ill-advised

So then you would recognize

Microtonally speaking

If these deviations on your piano

If they were consistently occurring

If they were

I mean

Not totally random deviations? But actually

If they were actual microtonal scales that these deviations were moving my piano into? Yes of course

And they were! That was the particular detail of my anecdote that moved my colleague to suggest I contact you

And he said verbatim contact us

MUFON

Yes detective

He said contact the Mutual UFO Network

MUFON

That is your organization

Correct? Oh yes! Oh

We are who we say we are

Have no doubt about that That's good

It just seems

I don't know

Like you're unusually preoccupied with my friend referring me to you

And that you're not as much concerned with my actual piano? So you recognize the scale then? Which one? You said the deviations are recurring? So I'd assume that there's a particular microtonal scale your piano continues to revert to? To be frank? I haven't cross-referenced the particular frequencies

But melodically it's certainly recognizable

It's certainly of an eastern origin I'd say

Now I don't know the particular nomenclature

Could you find out? Well

I do have the particular cent-locations the piano often reverts to

If that would be of any use to you? You said you were somewhat

Familiar with microtonal scales? Yeah

I have some experience with magam musics

Oh excellent! So you may actually be able to help me after all! Excellent

I have the information stored on my personal laptop

Would it be okay if I emailed it to

Alcibiades at MUFON dot org

Please by all means send it my way

Do you need me to spell it? It's spelled like the Athenian statesman? That Socrates molested? You got it Mr Cowell

And there's nothing beyond the deviation in tone that you've experienced

Absolutely nothing

I promise you that!

Act VIII

I hate this bar

Has he emailed you yet? The tones? The scale? No not yet

I'll bet you my left nut its the sixth echo again

You can actually have my left testicle if it isn't Bahira

One hundred percent equity

How does that sound? I'll pass

With that said I do hope that he emails you soon

Like before we finish this drink soon

By the way

What the hell is going on with that guy Colombo? What do you mean? MUFON

What do you mean mufongol? he says

He says that

Yet apparently the cunt was telling Cowell yesterday afternoon to contact us about his piano? And um yesterday afternoon

Wolpe was still alive yesterday afternoon

Talking to us! Unless it's a different

Ron Colombo? In Providence Homicide? How many Ron Colombos could there possibly be?! Did he say homicide? That he worked in homicide? I'm almost positive he did

Really? Still though

To be fair

There are a lot of Italian guys in the Providence Police

Two Ron Colombos though Bahira? Seriously??? Maybe we can ask someone

Call a directory or something

Yeah maybe

My buddy Bobby Pesto went to high school with a Providence cop

I could ask him

But for now

What if we operated under the more logical assumption that Mr Cowell's Ron Colombo is our Ron Colombo

That they're one and the same

Guy's holding a match to my asshole about MUFON this morning

Accusing me of speaking Italian

Yet the previous afternoon he's directing a piano teacher to contact MUFON? Then that night a homicide just happens to occur

That's a little too cute for me

It's too cute to believe there's nothing cunty underneath that story

You know what I mean? Well once we confirm the scale data I say we go back to Cowell again

And ask him a few more questions

See what he has to say as a follow-up

Act IX

Well well well

Look who it is! Al body-adi

Adi

Detective Colombo

What brings you to my

To my parking lot

Is it your lot? When you live above a fucking cobbler?

Detective? In a manner of speaking perhaps

But you know what? I was actually hoping I'd bump into you Ron

I can call you Ron right? Oh

You were looking for me? Why? You want me to teach you how to munch box?! What do you

Are you talking about performing oral sex? Detective? Yeah

I was a porn distributor back in the 90s

Spent a lot of weekends in Vegas actually

Doing a whole porn thing

And they showed you what

How to lick clitoris out there? Is that what you're insinuating? The porno girls I banged? Yeah they did actually

They're professionals

Don't believe me? I've trained half the department

Their girlfriends send hundreds of dollars of Amazon gift cards to me every holiday season as a thank you

No wives? Nobody eats their wife's pussy

Honestly detective

It seems like you have a bit to learn when it comes to pleasuring women

I would just think

If the method was truly that extraordinary

That it would work even on a marital level

Early on in a relationship

In my mind? If a man goes down there

You know he doesn't necessarily have to spend half the afternoon down there for them to appreciate it

With my methods you won't need half a minute down there

You'll have your girl squirting in seconds! Sounds good So whenever you get a girl

Let me know

I'll give you half off my first class

Oh sure

How about this? I'll knock the discount down to twenty five if you give me a live demonstration next time I bend over

How's that sound? You'd like that wouldn't you? Not as much as you'd like doing it

Maybe I can show you on your little girlfriend partner there

The one from earlier

You know what Ron? Fucking go for it pal

We have a strictly professional relationship

We actually take interoffice romance somewhat seriously at the Mutual UFO Network

It's not a fucking gangbang like it is at Providence PD Oh no

I'm sure it's real serious over there

I know

Because you work in such a serious department

Don't you? By the way

Is there a particular reason you came to my cobbler's parking lot

Or was it solely to try to convince me you're the Michael Jordan of muff diving

I actually did come by here for a particular reason detective

You know

I had a late lunch with my pal Henry Cowell

He's actually one of the best jazz pianists in the state

Is he? Plays the fuckin instrument with his elbows better than most play with their fingertips

Let me know his next show

I'm not blowing smoke up your ass either

Sure whatever

But anyway

Yeah

He told me you two were by his house earlier

We were

Apparently per your request? Yeah

He said you were asking a lot of questions about me? Yeah Ron

We were at your pal Cowell's house

Again

Because you suggested he contact us

MUFON

Remember? Mufongol? So I asked an appropriate amount of questions given the circumstances

An appropriate amount huh? What? Highly appropriate What? I can't suggest that my friend give you some business? I figured I'd be helping you out

Oh

I appreciate it Ron

Don't get me wrong

It actually might be a worthwhile case too

Very timely actually

But I guess I just found it

I don't know

A little curious that this morning you feigned to have no knowledge of our organization

Yet yesterday? You're referring piano teachers to us? Based on microtonal digressions? Anyway

It dawned on me at lunch

That maybe you two detectives do have further questions for me

Your pal

Ronnie Colombo

And also

That I forgot to give you my card earlier

At the coffee shop

So yeah

In particular I swung by to give you this

Catch! Oh

Nice Ron

You're gonna flick your card at me now? What if I go ahead and pick your little card up off the ground here Crumple it up

And shove it up my own ass! Why don't you wait a few days

Because if I teach you how to eat box you could get any girl in the city to do that for you! Don't hesitate to give me a call detective! You or your little friend Bosnia

My line's always open!

Act X

Yeah

Bahira? What is it Alcibiades? I'm taking a nap right now I got the email from Cowell

And? I'm holding onto my left testicle for the afternoon So it's a match? That was the implication of my comment

Correct

know

So let's swing by his spot later tonight? Sure But can we grab something to eat first? Where? I don't

Not Italian again though

Yeah I'll have to tell you something adjacent to that later

What? Colombo was the implication of my comment

He stopped by my apartment

So where then? If not Italian

Indian? Oh really? Which Indian spot though

I don't wanna do Taste of India

Not if we're sitting down at least

Well I'm not going to the one in Garden City

Fuck them

Kabob and Curry? Ugh

Their lamb is always dry as hell over there though

I've never sat down there though

You think the lamb is dry because we take it out? So should we just not do Indian then? I'll try Kabob sitting down I guess

But what about Chilango's? I'm amenable to that

I could pivot to Mexican

Should we make a reservation? I don't know

When are we going? Nah you're right

We probably don't need one? Well when did you wanna go? Like six? That works

Then Cowell's after

Okay
Well if we're doing six we might wanna make a reservation? Okay
Can you call then? Okay Alcibiades
But let me go back to sleep for a few first
I'll call after my nap

Act XI

You know

That twat Colombo never told us a cause of death for Wolpe

Did he? Comes over my apartment to talk my ear off about eating pussy but doesn't even give me a damn cause of death

Nο

Actually now that I think of it

He didn't

I wonder how he actually died then

Curious isn't it? Yet it must have been deemed a homicide

Obviously right? For it to fall under his purview? Clearly it was of a homicidal nature

It had to be

Ring the bell? You can't? If you insist! No answer? Let's go around the back? I feel like I hear rummaging

Some fuckin ruffling and shit

You do? I don't hear a thing

Anything's possible

I don't know

I'm starting to have a weird feeling about this Alcibiades I know I probably should have before

But

Mr Cowell? I thought we said 7:45? And you have company? Mr Cowell? Well

The more the merrier I suppose

Did you still want to meet? And um

By the way

Who are these gentlemen? Alcibiades

What's going on here? Hi

I'm Alcibiades

MUFON senior detective

And this is my partner

Alcibiades

Why aren't any of them replying

Or speaking? Or moving? Mr Cowell? Helloooooo? Oh Alcibiades! What are you doing here? It's fucking 7:51

Cowell

We were supposed to meet like six minutes ago

I've been talking to you for like 180 seconds straight

Who are the suits? They look

Uh

Excessively pale

Alcibiades

Oh

They're my cousins

From Worcester

Did we say 7:45? Oh

My apologies

I thought you meant 7:45 am

AM? Gee

That's a little early for me

Ass crack of dawn more or less

Ugh

Bahira

That third bean burrito

Is not sitting as well as I'd hoped

I told you not to finish mine

That I wanted to take it home as leftovers

Mr Cowell

Is there any chance we could take this indoors? Where I could have a seat? Now is not the time

Alcibiades

Okay

Well

Bahira I don't know about you

But I'm probably going to pass on 7:45 am

Can we do maybe 10? AM? Yeah let's just do 10 then

These guys are fucking

Your cousins? As in they are your cousins

Not as in fornicating with them

Just to be clear

Now is not the time

Alcibiades

Maybe we should

Okay then

So we're confirmed for 10? 10 AM? I just don't wanna come here tomorrow and then you're like oh I thought you meant 10 at night

You know? Then I have to rearrange my whole day

Now is not the time

Alcibiades! Let's go

Please? Remember? We were supposed to meet my brother at eight at Kabob and Curry? Kabob and Curry again Bahira

What do you have

Equity there? Jesus

Mr Cowell

Great to see you again

We'll be in touch mid-morning tomorrow

Now is not the time

Act XII

Really? We're really doing Kabob and Curry? For a drink I guess it's okay

Yeah

I'll have a Taj Mahal

Yeah a pint of it

Thanks

Alcibiades

Were you not reading

the room over there? What? The backyard? With the two men in black who looked like they had their skin pasted on? Uh ya! And Mr Cowell repeating a mantra-like phrase?! Yeah

I wasn't going to be intimidated Bahira

Feel like I've been waiting my entire life to stumble on a man in black so to speak

No homo

And I wasn't gonna just let it expire without cracking it open a bit

Without at least attempting to probe the situation a bit

I wasn't gonna just scurry away with my bracciole between my legs so to speak

They barely looked human

Like something trying to

Dress up as human

They clearly had some kind of hold on Cowell

That's for fucking certain

I was getting like a message

Or something

from them

Repeating the same thing Mr Cowell was saying

If he ends up dead tomorrow

Well

We'll know why

And I'll be fucking pissed! I don't think he will

No? That wasn't the message I was getting

Well what message were you? Getting? This is really an underrated beer

Taj Mahal

It was almost a benevolent type thing

Like now is not the time

Not as in now's not the time because they were going to like

I don't know

Kill Cowell

But just as in

Maybe we shouldn't be investigating this at all right now Agree to disagree Bahira

Do you know who Tzelepes was? Do you want to know who he is

Finally? Well yeah

I've just been waiting all day for you to tell me

No big deal

He was the damn grandfather of the founder of the Ottoman Empire

Some pissed off Byzantine prince who went rogue

Converted to Islam

Started a whole other lineage of sultans

According to underground channels at least

Okay

But what does that have to do with digital pianos in America exactly? What's your theory? I think maybe they're reaching out to me personally Bahira

That maybe the spirit of Tzelepes is trying to reach out to me via these American digital pianos

That's my running theory at this point

And that's why I won't just quote-unquote let this go

No

I don't think so

Isn't that a bit of a leap Alcibiades? Tzelepes reaching out to me? He's reprogramming pianos to the sixth echo? That's one of my favorite scales! And if he is

Then I wanna know why

And more importantly

I need to know what he has to say to me

I don't know Alcibiades

That still seems a little

Narcissistic? s I was gonna say freaky

Or extreme

But that too actually

Bahira

There are other elements involved here

That I just don't want to get into this second

If that makes sense? But just trust me on this

The men in black

That prick Ronnie Colombo

They all can kiss my waxed ass as far as I'm concerned

I'm going back to see Cowell first thing tomorrow morning

You with me?

Act XIII

Alcibiades? Ugh

What the fuck? I'm still trying to sleep it off Bahira

I just got a message from Cowell

An email

And? He said not to

By no means can we come over his house today

Goddammit

Seriously? He said he's already put a restraining order on both of us after last night

Last night? He said we were materially harassing him

Materially harassing? That doesn't even make

Like grammatical sense

Is that a legal term? I didn't even wanna get into the grammatical aspects of his email with him

I didn't even reply

Should I reply you think? No

Don't reply yet

Let's meet at New Harvest ASAP

Get an espresso or two

Give me like another half hour though

Maybe forty five

I took a melatonin and wanna get the bang for my buck

Get maybe another twenty of pure deep sleep

In the meantime forward me the email

I'll take a look at it

Maybe we can craft a response

Okay

That's what I was thinking too! Or maybe I'll run it by that cunt Colombo

See what he has to say about it

Act XIV

Due to the material harassment I experienced at the hands of you and your partner last night

While partaking in an innocent barbecue with two of my most prized cousins

I shall have no choice but to file a formal restraining order against you both

It's like

Really intense huh? Fuck him

We're better off focusing on the Wolpe case

If we can ever get a decent contact in the homicide division

Technically it's still our case

Plus he was actually murdered you know

But we still don't know a cause of death

Exactly

And he was

Wolpe was the guy who got the Tzelepes message specifically

Right

And that's why we need to get in a room with our old pal Detective Colombo again

And see what he has on the case

Do you think he'll be willing to even help us though? As is

Probably not

as is

He'll probably not only not help us

But probably even try to actively hinder our investigation into the matter

That's what I was thinking

That is

Unless we have some kind of leverage over him

Leverage? Unless we were to somehow

I don't know

Obtain a piece of information that would force him to assist us in our endeavor

Okay

But like

How would we get that? You know he stopped by my apartment right? Right

You said that

What was that about? Yeah

He was in my fucking parking lot the other day when I got home

I wonder why would he do that? He probably wanted to quote-unquote send a message

Some tough guy faux Italian bullshit you know

Typical ginzo shit

Oh like Jersey Shore

Yeah

Something like that

Yet

In doing so

Ron may have actually given us a piece of information that we can use to leverage against him

How so? Well he was talking to me about eating pussy? Like oral sex? How he was just so great at eating so-called vagina

Yet do you know how he acquired said alleged skills? Don't they have classes online now? From his days in the porn industry Bahira

Yeah

Colombo worked distribution for some porno bullshit

Ended up blowing lines and sharing hotels with some porn stars

By his account at least

Ew

He probably has like herpes or something

Probably! Many do

Especially in that walk of life

It's an incurable disease

But assuming he's not completely full of shit

Then it wouldn't be out of the realm of possibility that we You and me Bahira

That we could track down one of these porn stars

No Alcibiades

You're not going to pay a porn star to have sex with you

Are you? You think I'd want to be Eskimo brothers with that clown?! No

We'll pay one of these porno girls a small sum to give us details on Colombo

Then we go to Colombo and tell him

You either help us or we go straight Stormy Daniels on you

I'm sure one of these broads probably has a dick pic at least

Is that a good idea though Alcibiades? Isn't that extortion or something? Providence police run on extortion

Really? It's time for Colombo to taste some of his own medicine Bahira

That's my two cents at least

But wait

Don't we have the CPR MUFON training at noon? Ugh I forgot all about that

Is that idiot Roger leading it? I don't know who else would if he isn't

Okay then

Right after the CPR training let's start digging for real Bahira

X-videos

Pornhub

Youjizz

Let's scour porn contacts and see what we find

Let's make a break in this fuckin case once and for all

Act XV

Now if a guy is in a puddle

Take him out of the puddle

You know what this is for? This is a towel

Wipe the guy or girl's chest off so you can put the pads on them to

You know

Send the electrical shocks

A lot of people don't know about these machines

Now as a firefighter you would

But if you're not? Maybe not! But the thing with this machine

It doesn't actually shock your heart back into working

It actually slows it down

That's a common misconception

Because when someone's collapsing the problem

The problem is that the heart is actually moving too fast!
We need to actually slow it down

Now what are these? Anyone recognize these? They're scissors

Joe whispered: Do you guys know what that is? I whispered: I have no clue

Roger! What is that? What Joe? What is the machine called? A defibrillator

And what does it do? Just what I said

It brings people back to life

I just wanted to clarify

Give people background because a lot of people here might not even know what a defibrillator is

Roger that: Right

That's a great point Joe! So if anyone collapses

I thought the background was given prior on this

My apologies

Now a defibrillator

It's used

Like I said

Primarily to actually slow down a person's heart-rate

If they collapse and are no longer conscious

If someone's heart is pumping over 300 beats a minute

Which it can! Then we can't even detect a pulse

Which is obviously a huge problem

Roger

Can I ask a question

Absolutely

Now

You said you can't detect a pulse if the guy's heart is going too fast

Correct

But what if you shock his heart

And then it goes to zero

There's still no pulse

Correct

So then how do you know the guy's dead then? Because in one case he's dead

Because he has no heartbeat

But in the other case there's no heartbeat but it's because he heart's moving too fast! That's a great point

And that's why you want to get as much background information as possible before using the defibrillator

Now don't worry

If you don't know how to do CPR

You're thinking

Shit

If I try to save this poor guy but maybe I break his rib or I end up killing him

Then he's gonna sue me? Not true! There's a thing called The Good Samaritan Law that protects you

from legal action in the event someone gets hurt as a result of you attempting CPR on him

Despite not knowing CPR

Because you're acting with good intent you're legally in the clear

Now if I did that? As a professionally certified CPR professional? No

Forget it

Because I'm a trained firefighter

So if I go and give you CPR and I do it incorrectly

And I break your rib or kill you

Then you can sue me

You can take me for all I've got! But you can't be sued

If you don't have a CPR certification

Now the scissors

You're going to need to cut the clothes off

Male or female you will need to fully remove the shirt in order to attach the wires of the defibrillator

Roger? Yes

Right

Now you've said a lot

And I respect your opinion

I have a lot of respect for you personally

But you're saying if a guy's in a puddle you have to move him out

correct? Correct

Okay

But what if it's a rainy day? What do you do then? If it's rainy even if you move a guy out a puddle he'll still be wet! Because sometimes it might be a rainy day out there

That's a great point! Now getting him out of the puddle is the more important thing to be honest

He just can't be submerged in water If it's drizzling

That's probably okay

Then just make sure the pecs

Or breasts

Are dried off

If it's drizzling out then like I said

That's not the biggest deal

If it's really pouring

Sure

Try and bring him inside

Or get him under a pier of some sort

If there's a canopy nearby? Or maybe a tent? Maybe a bridge

And then once you have him there then immediately take his clothes off

Wipe his chest

Or her chest

And then start to process the defibrillator

Also

Guys

When you start the defibrillator process

Listen

We live in interesting times

And some people do have their nipples pierced

In the event of a nipple piercing

Male or female

You're gonna want to try and avoid covering the nipple with the defibrillator pad if possible

Ideally we don't want any metal near the defibrillator wiring

Attached different pads! Attached different pads! Roger what is that noise

Attached different pads! Yeah

So once you attach

Attached different pads! Once you attach the pads

It will prompt you at certain points as it's

Attached different pads! Notice

Attached different pads! As it's doing right now

Like I said

This thing will guide you through the entire

Attached different pads! The entire process

A fifth grader could do this! Not that you would want a fifth grader to do it

I whispered: Bahira

Bahira whispered: This is

Attached different pads! I whispered: I think I've had enough? Okay! Thank you Roger! Let's all give Roger a round of applause please! This was very informative

Yes

Clap please! Quite useful

Now if there are any other questions

No

I don't think

Attached different pads! Then I think we can conclude? Thank you Mr President

Much appreciated! I'm honored to have the platform And again

I will try and organize a CPR class for all of MUFON in the coming months

Now

Would anyone like to help me remove the batteries? Let's see here

Just open this guy up quick

They're actually just a little larger than a duracell double A

That's what's actually saving your life

Take a look at these! Now how often are those changed? I'm planning to do them monthly? Okay

That's good

I think this is a great thing

God forbid we ever have to use these things I wouldn't want the batteries to be dead!

Act XVI

Yes

I'm looking for a detective Ronald aka Ronnie Colombo
I believe he's a detective in your homicide division? We'd
like to meet with him if possible

As soon as possible

If possible

I'm sorry

But as of this morning detective Colombo has been placed on an indeterminate leave

Okay

As of this morning that is? So when would he possibly be available again? At this point? That's somewhat indeterminate

Is there a reason you can tell me why? At this point that's a confidential matter sir

Bahira

I don't know the fuck I told you Alcibiades maybe we should

I feel like I'm being led on a wild good c-