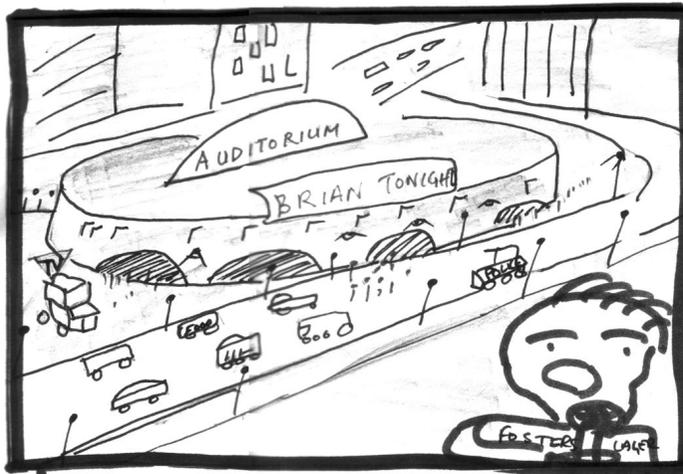


# BRIAN'S FIRST

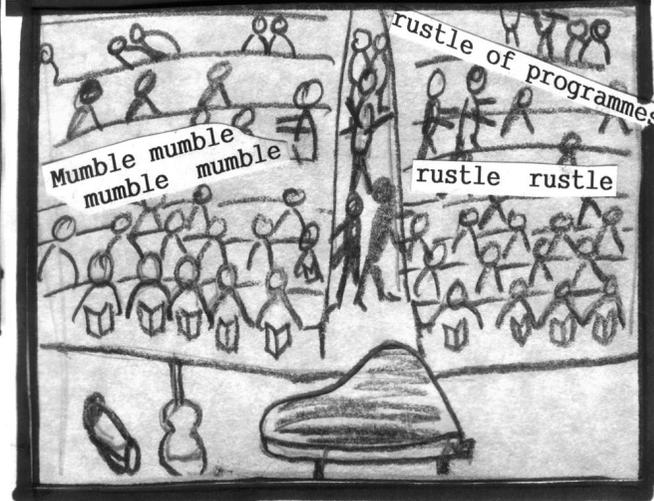
# CONCERT

pictures by Rez Kabir and Story by Balbeer Bahi

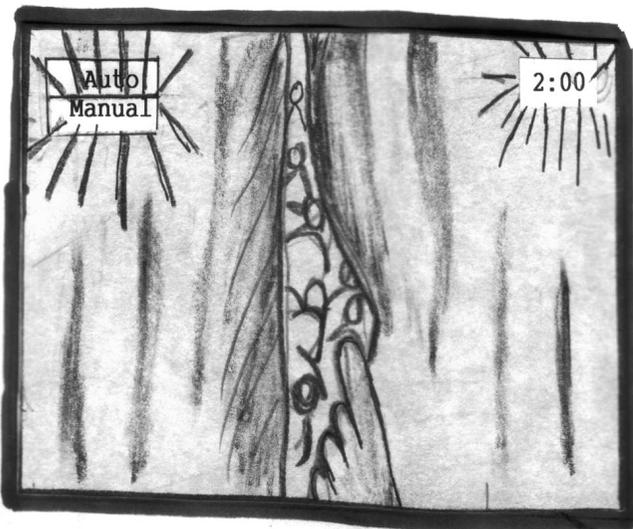


'We all know androids have been put to gainful employ in security and domestic functions: but will they now join us in the rarefied atmosphere of the classical arts?'

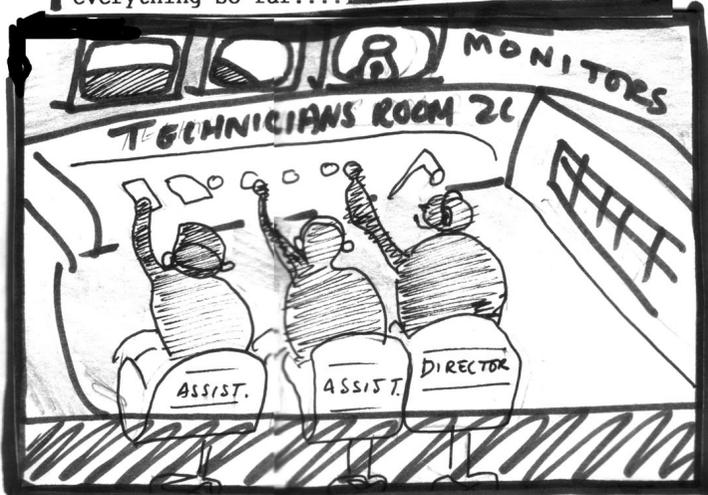
'In the theatre, critics, musicians, scholars and journalists have gathered alike to discover if an android can tell the difference between a diode and an arpeggio...'



From backstage, Brian peers out from behind the curtain at the gathering audience...



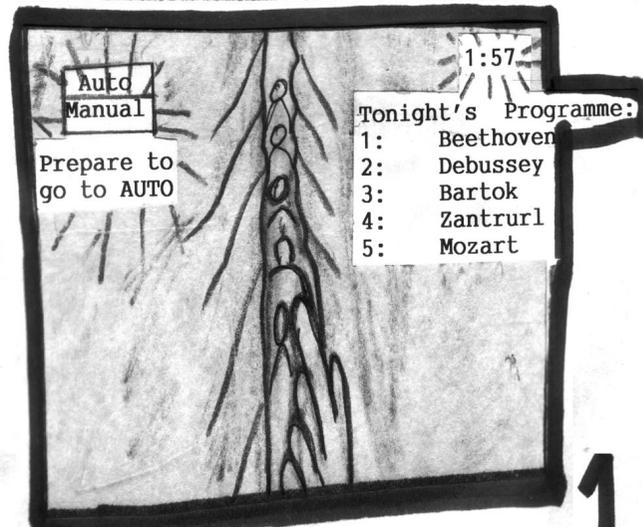
The group of Master Technicians control everything so far....



'Two minutes till curtain!'

'Prepare to go to Auto!'

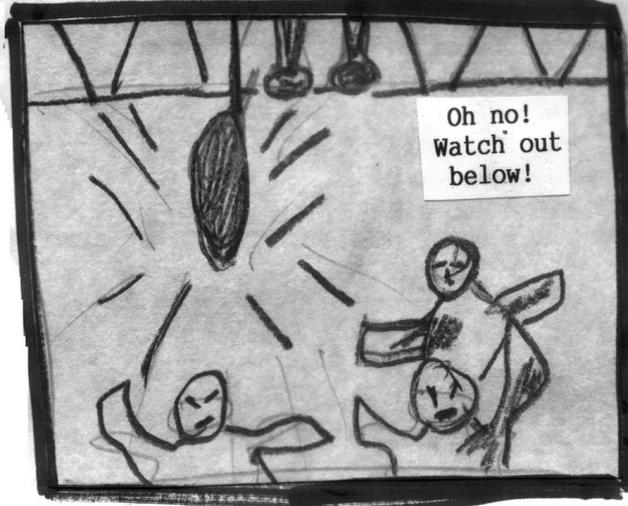
Still behind the curtain, Brian goes through his notes a last time...



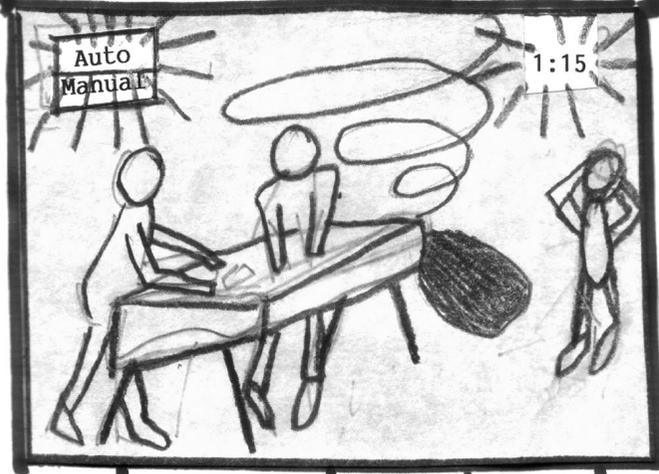
- Tonight's Programme:
- 1: Beethoven
  - 2: Debussy
  - 3: Bartok
  - 4: Zantrurl
  - 5: Mozart

2

Backstage, one of the lighting technician's drops a sandbag from the scaffolding...



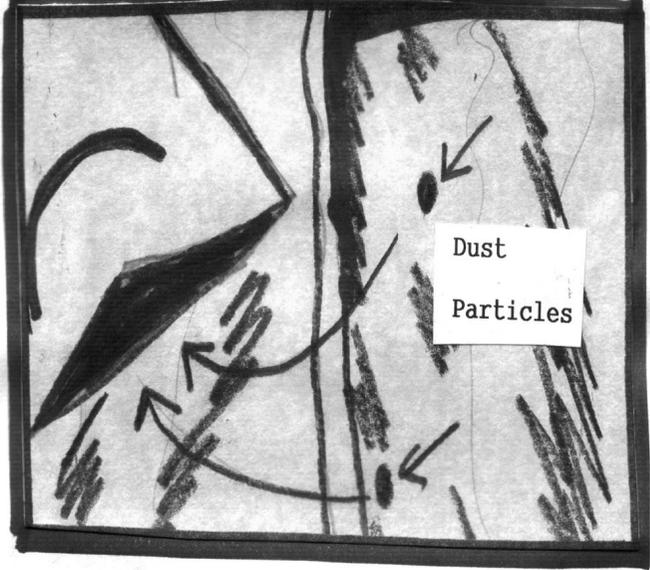
And swirls up a dust cloud. There's a minor panic amongst the technicians. Brian watches



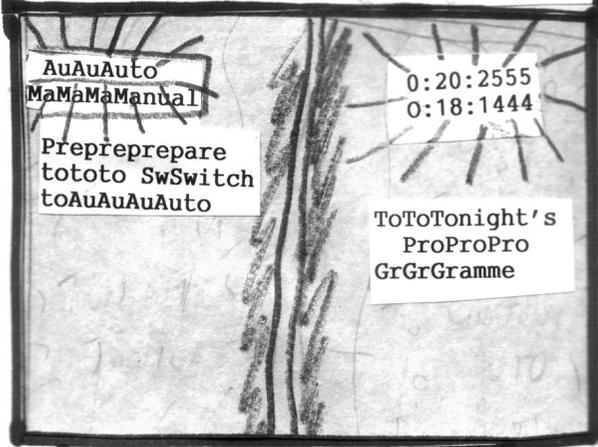
Watch out for my equipment!

Keep it Away!

Dust accidentally goes up Brian's nose...



And causes Brian's screen to flicker...



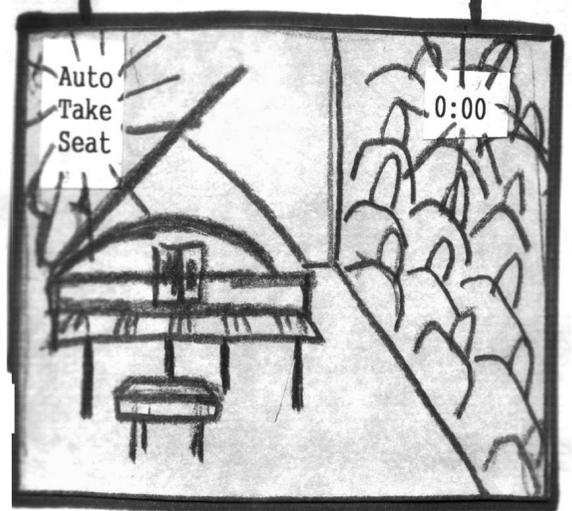
From the technicians we hear:  
'What the hell is that?!'

The glitch disappears. The screen settles.



Too late! Go go go!

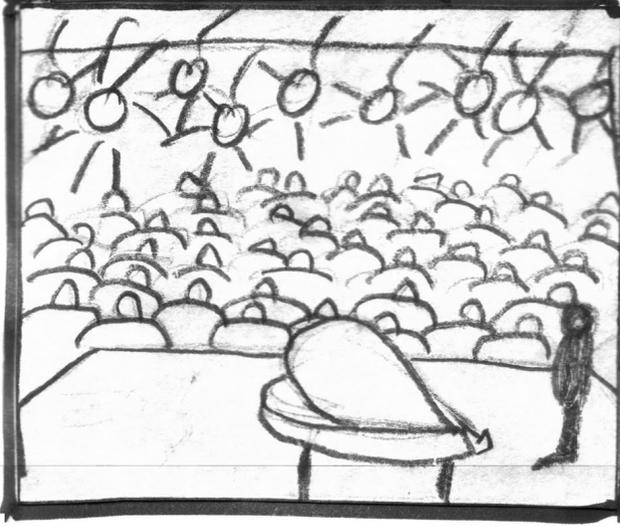
Brian walks to the piano...



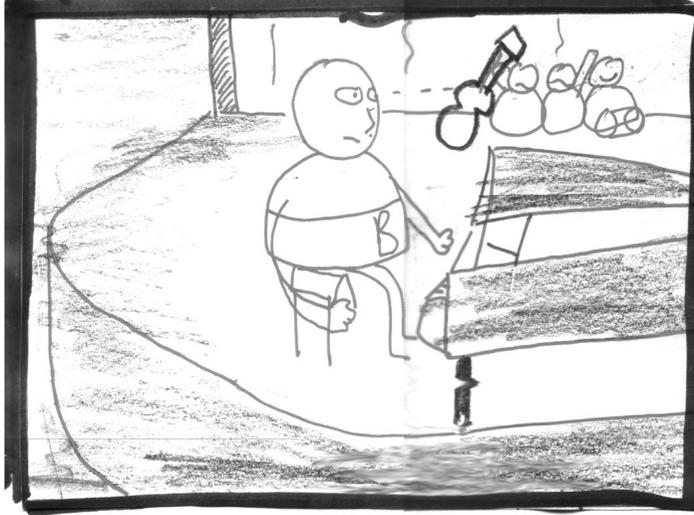
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The audience goes quiet. Brian is silhouetted...



Brian spots the Cellist, the violinist, and the mridangam player who will join him in the second half....



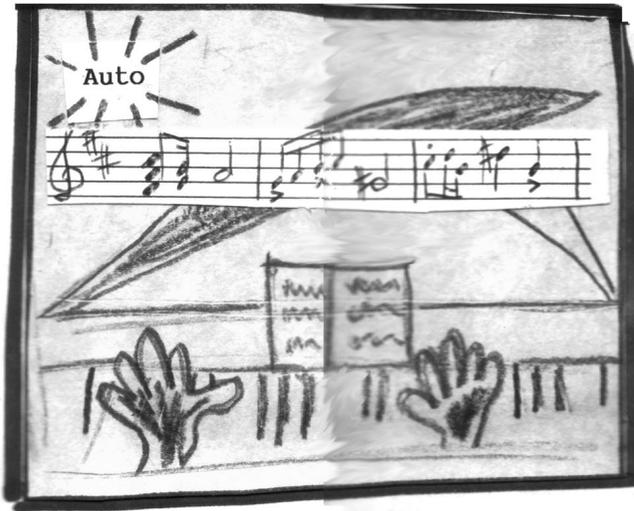
He knows what humans think of robots....



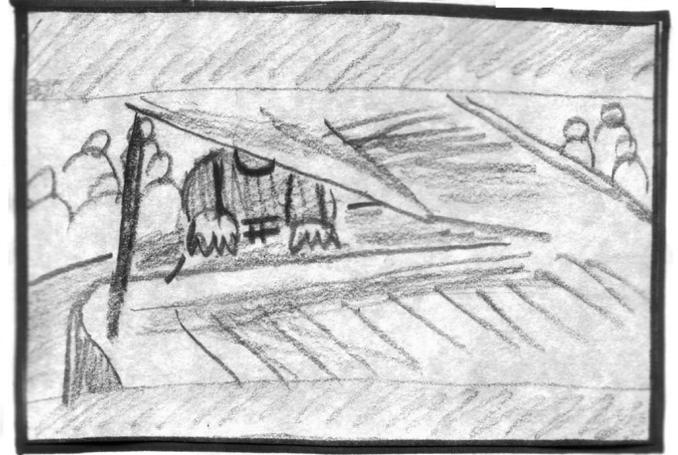
He stares at the pointless music score...



And as the spotlight lands on him, he begins the first piece; the Appassionata Sonata...



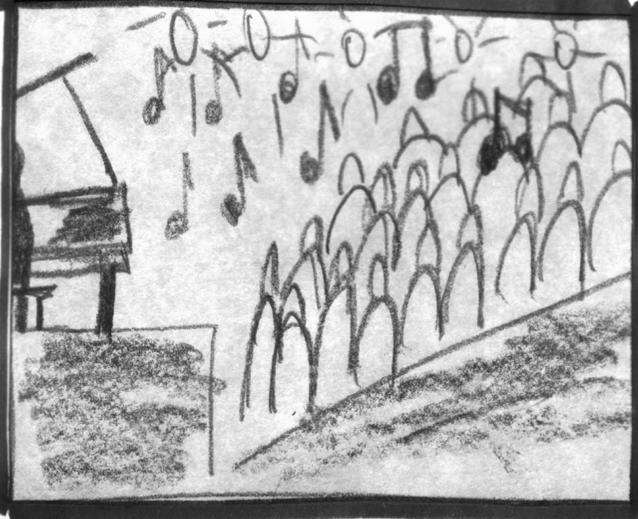
Brian plays beautifully....



3

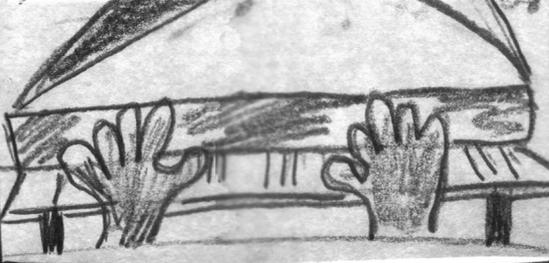
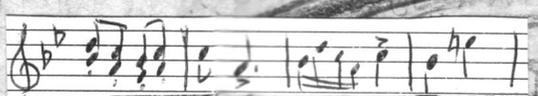
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It goes very well. The audience listen intently, but critically....



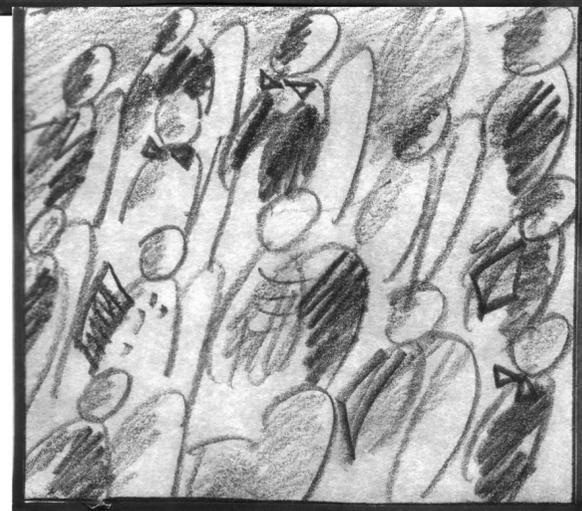
As Brian plays, he goes through notes.

Auto Ritando Beethoven: 17th century: German: Black:



And reaches the end of the first piece

Yet when he finishes the first piece, the audience don't clap. They just sit, quietly.



Brian prepares for, and begins the 2nd piece, Debussy's Ondine.....

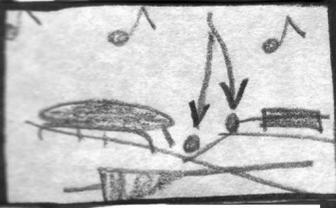
Load up: Debussy: Ondine: Ready: Begin



But as he reaches the descending triplets, inside Brian, the dust particles float



And settle...



causing a short circuit....

dust particles



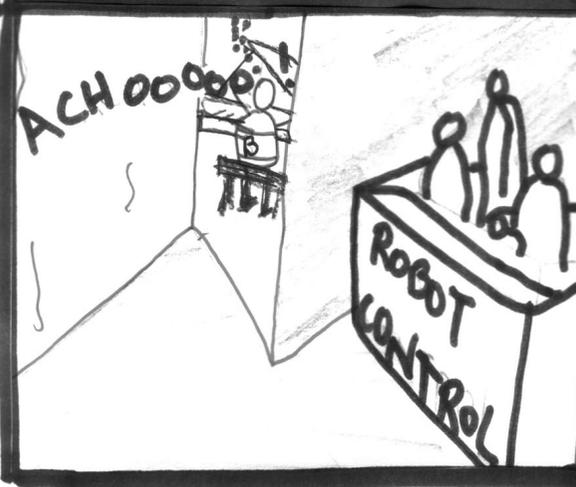
'Achooo!' Brian sneezed...



4

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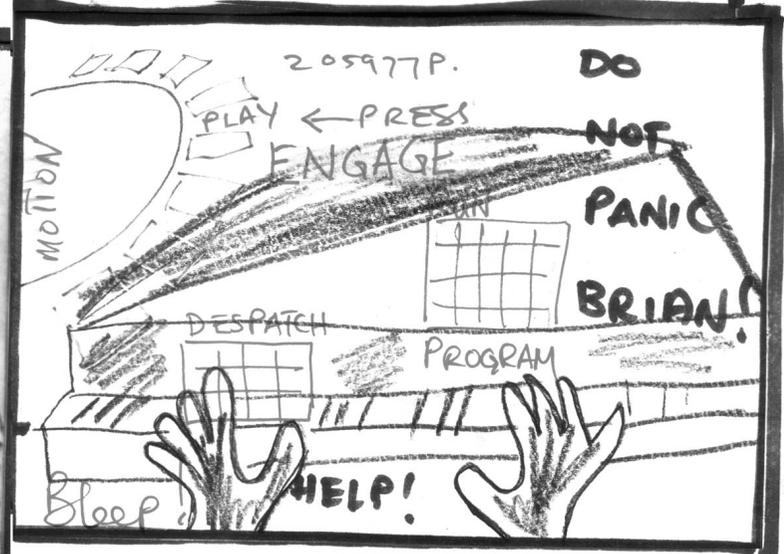
But everybody's so busy, no-one notices...



Yet inside Brian's head, the dust particles do their dirty work! The \*@\$\$^&\*x!!!



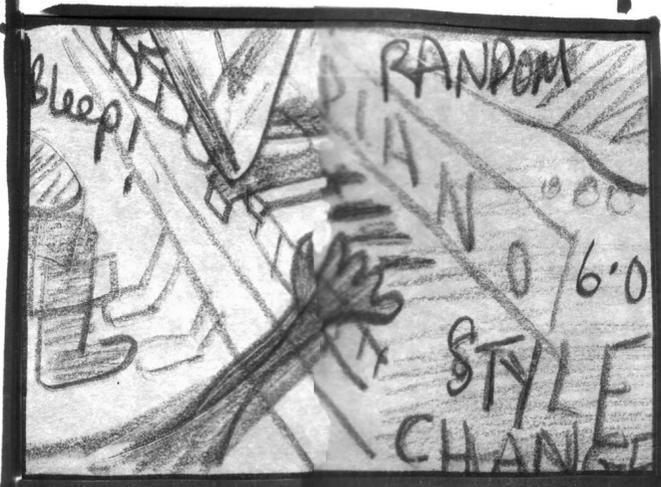
His command centre blown, Brian had an epidilectic fit.



His search and play mechanism flip uncontrollably through windows...



Still on Debussy's Ondine, he played as if he were Monk...



He played as if it were a trombone....



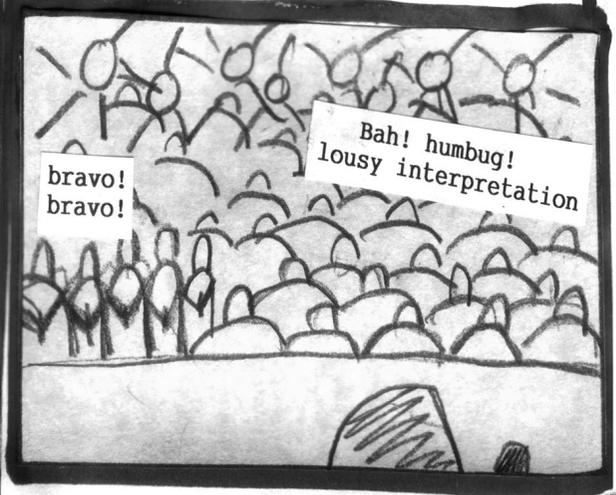
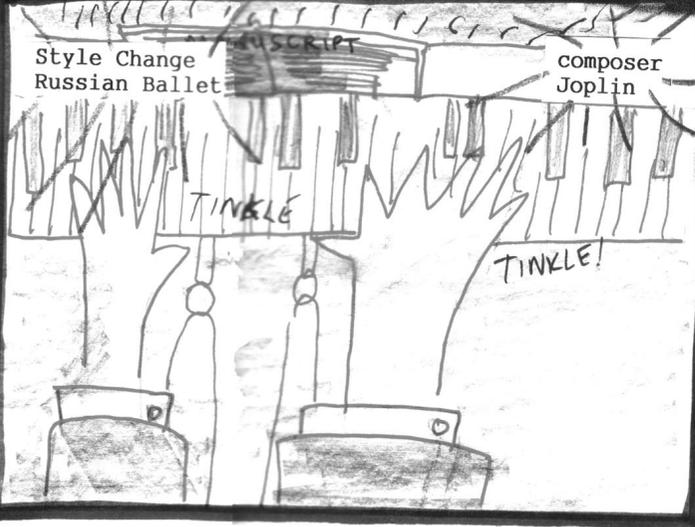
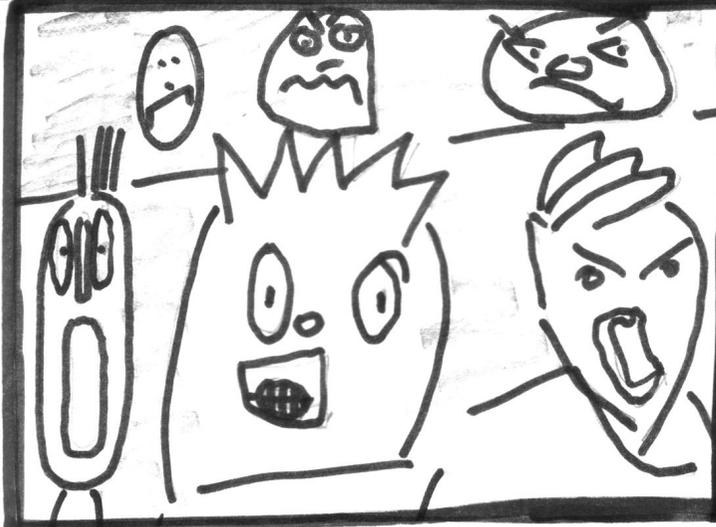
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6

Some of the audience weren't quite sure what they were hearing, while others....

Finishing Ondine, he played it as if he were Joplin accompanying a grand Russian Ballet...

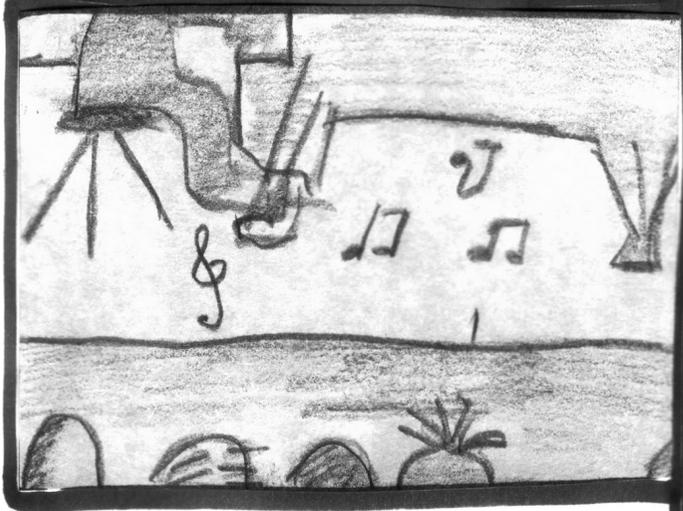
As Ondine finished, five people in the left of the audience clapped enthusiastically, but others were more restrained....



Before anyone could comment, Brian launched himself into Bartok's incredibly difficult Piano Suite...

His connections blown, he played as if he were Ella Fitzgerald... until his mechanism started selecting different source countries, and he played it as if he were from Peru....

'What the hell...?'

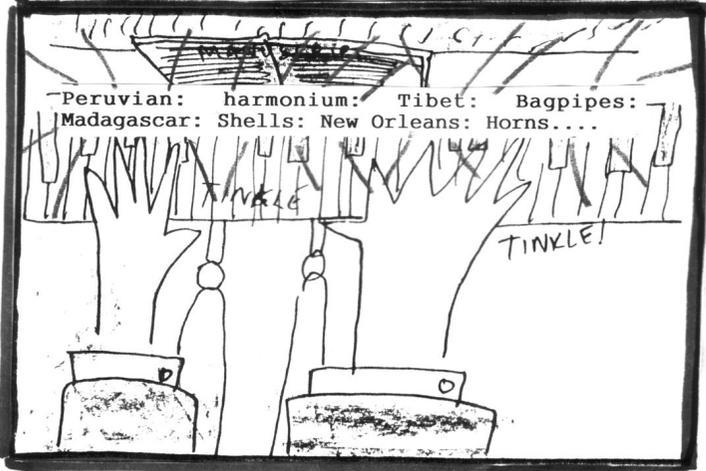


'I don't know, but it ain't like we rehearsed it!'

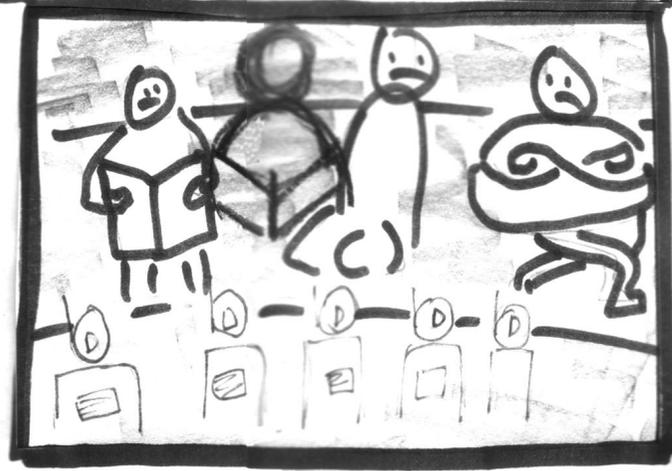
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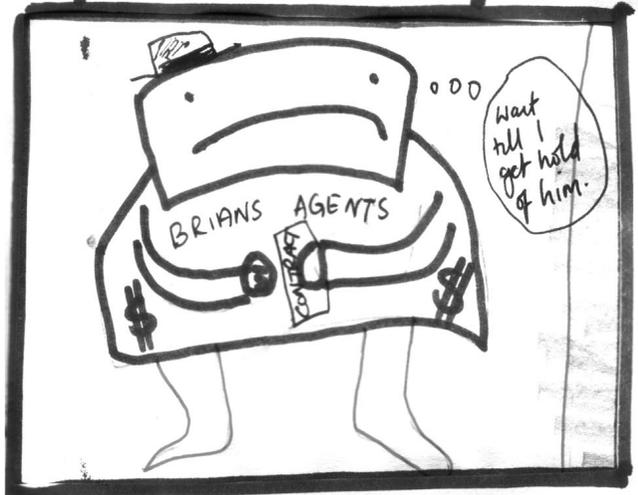
He played it as if he were from Tibet, then Madagascar, and then New Orleans!



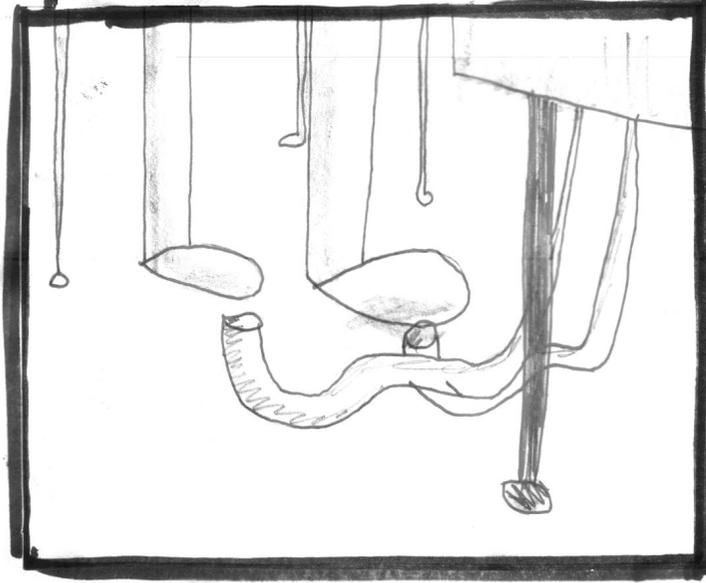
At this stage, even the hardest critics couldn't help but appreciate it, especially the five to the left of the stage....



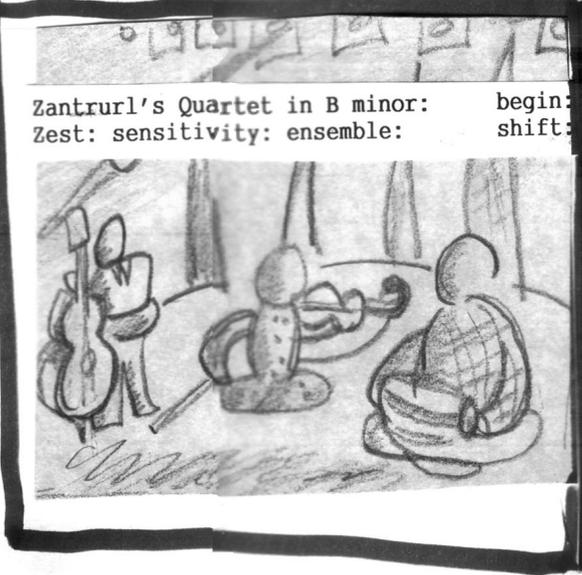
And as for Brian's agent....



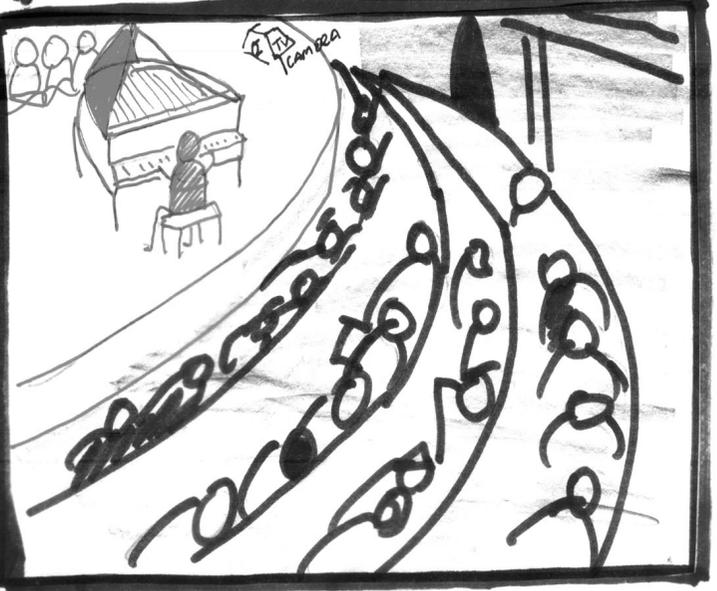
Brian finished the piece in a state of shock, flickering between classical, romanticism, contemporary, while the audience clapped...



After a slight interval, a nervous, scared looking violinist, cellist, and mridangam joined in....



The three accompanists joined in reluctantly.



7

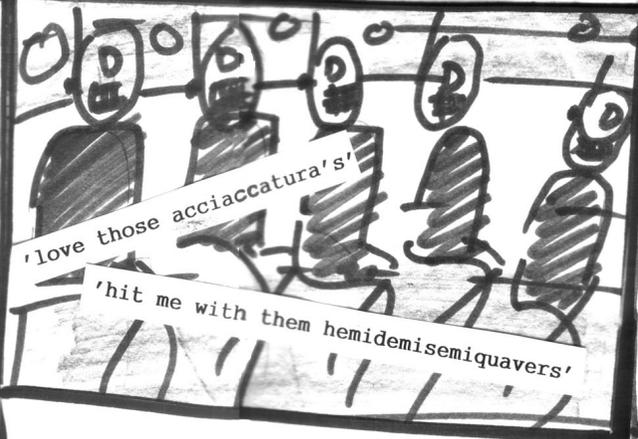
8

Yet when Brian played some contradictory notes, the mridangam player also improvised. The other two got even more nervous.

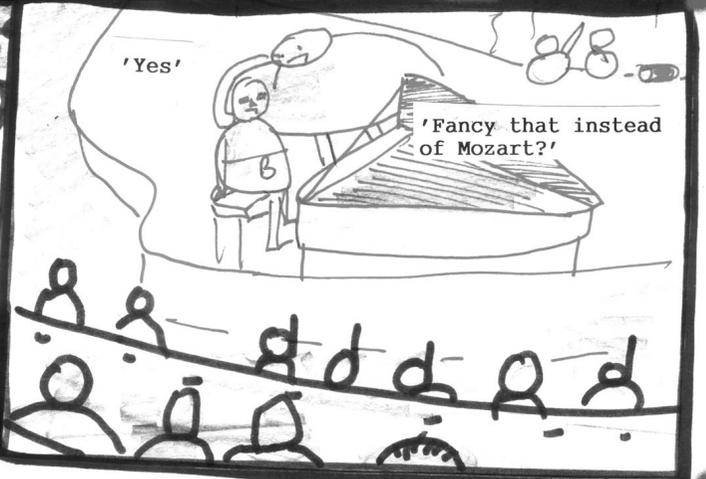
fortissimo; portamento; ritardando; strict



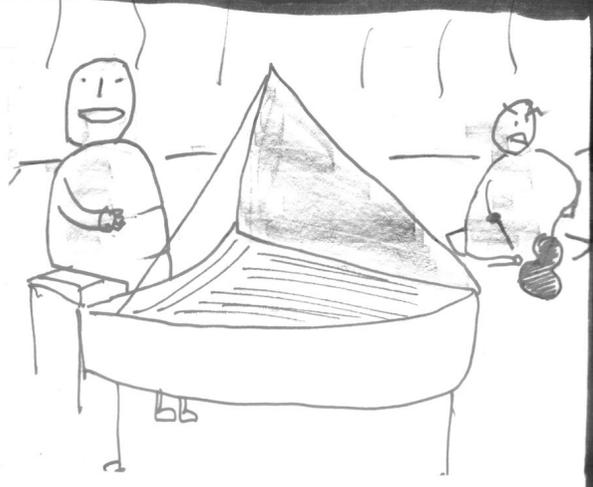
As they reached the end of the fourth piece, the five at the left of the audience were most appreciative.....



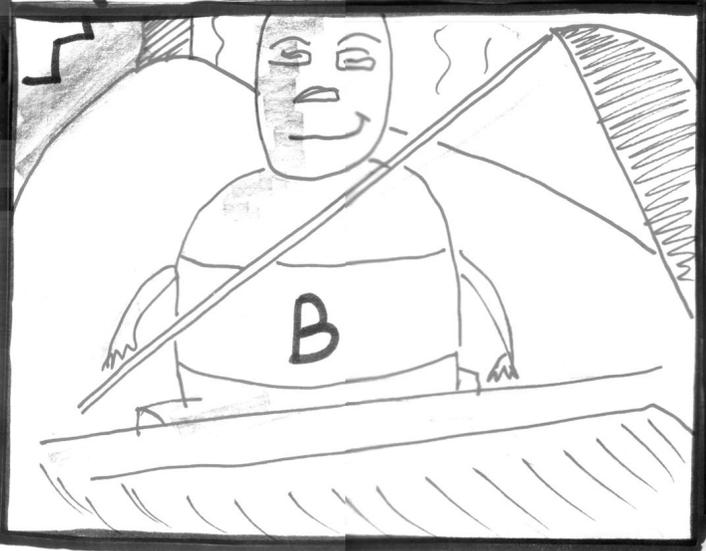
At the end of the fourth piece, the mridangam player came over, and asked... 'Do you know Gopikambhoji's Jayajavanti?'



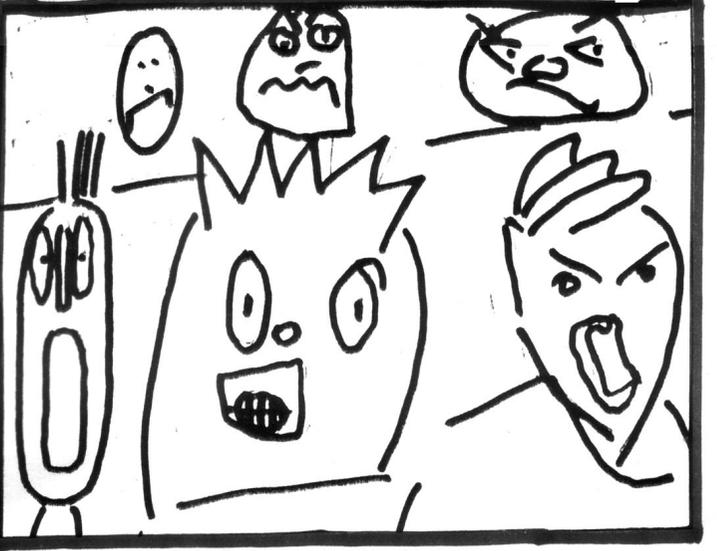
'Yes', replied Brian. And as he said that, his command centre returned to normal.



Ignoring the rehearsed last piece, when all was quiet, Brian began the heptatonic alaap of Gopikambhoji's Jayajavanti. He even liked it....

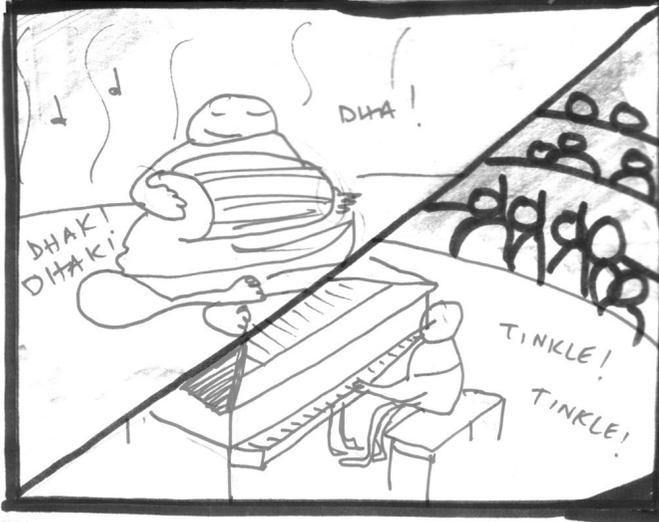


Again, the audience was surprised at the unannounced change in the programme....



8

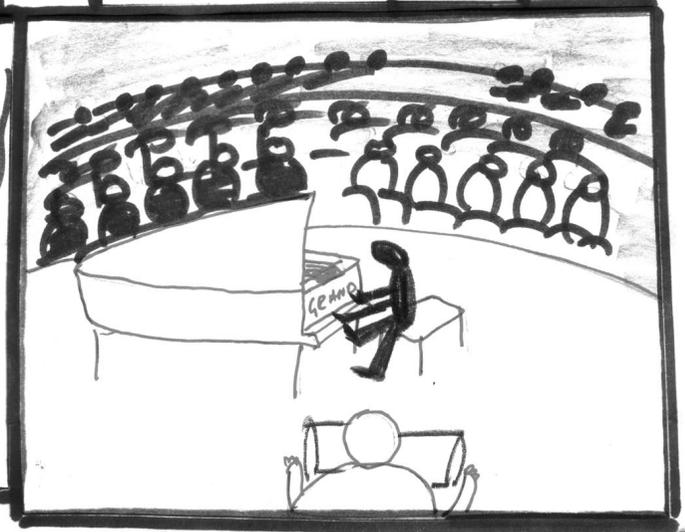
When the shruti was expressed, the others joined in. It was heavenly; terrific; great;



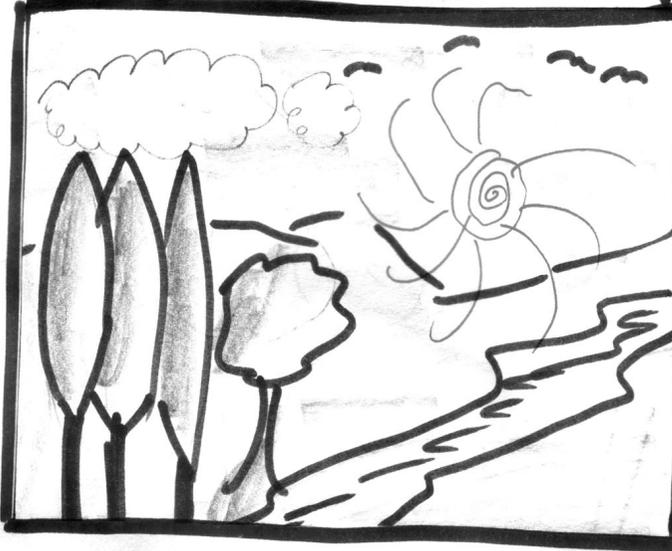
It took people to different places: Over mountains, across forests, under the ocean...



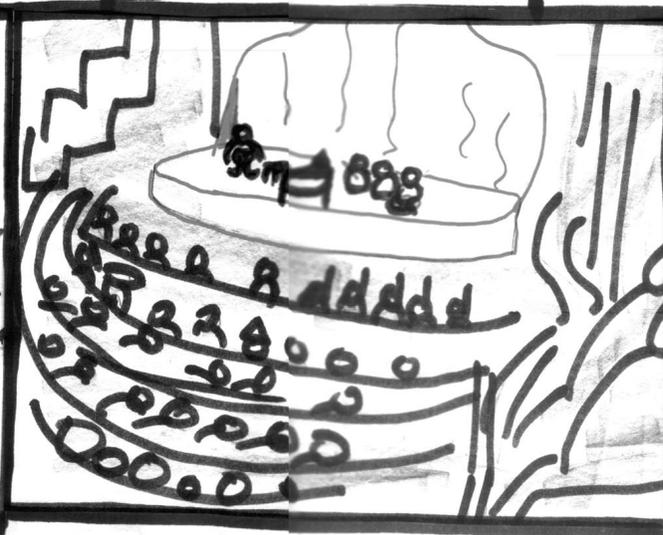
Brian really began enjoying it



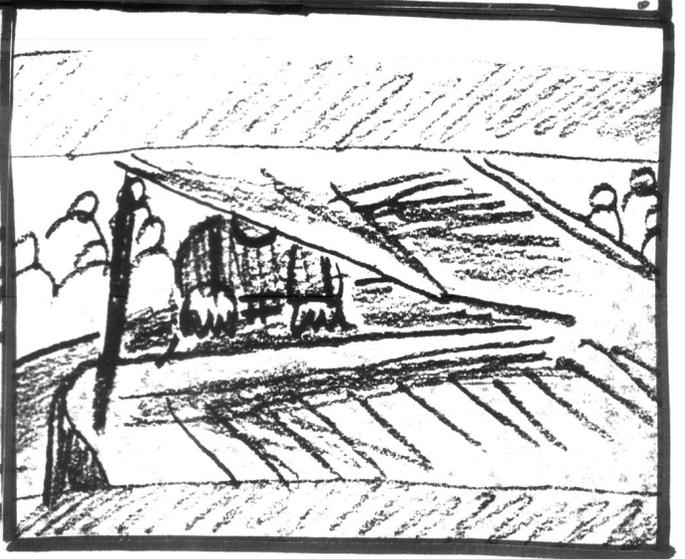
It made people think of Picasso, Junganath, even Van Gogh...



The audience sit in rapture



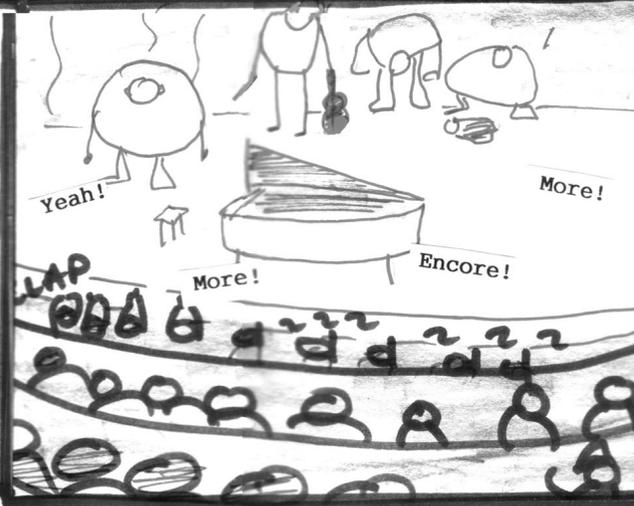
Brian plays not only like a human, but better?



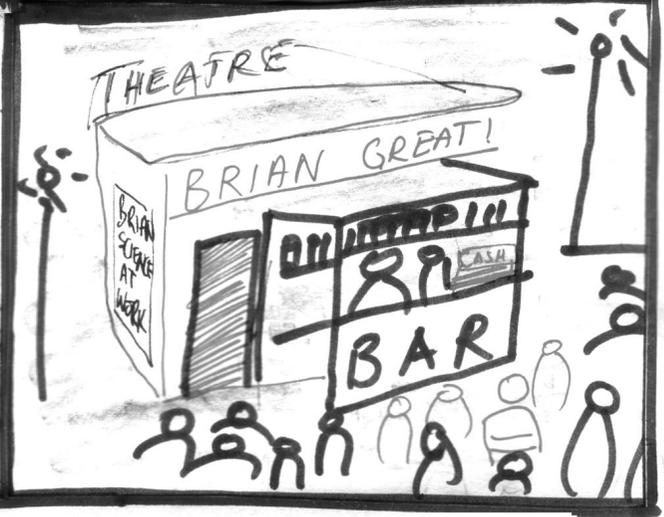
At the end, everyone (virtually) clapped



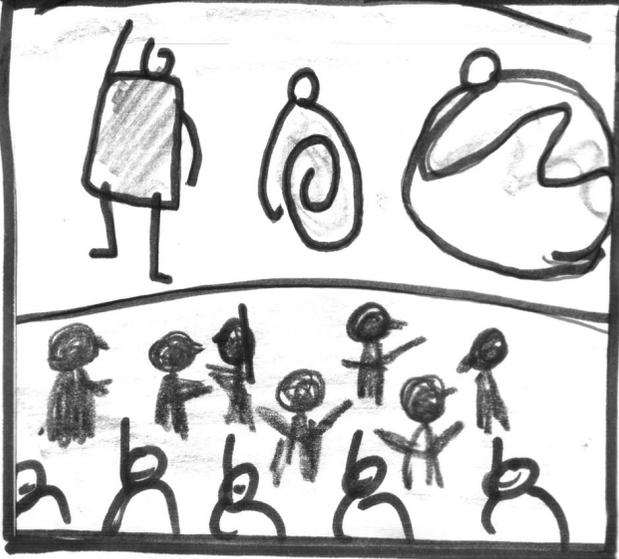
Particularly for the mridangam player, whom everyone felt Brian should aspire to...



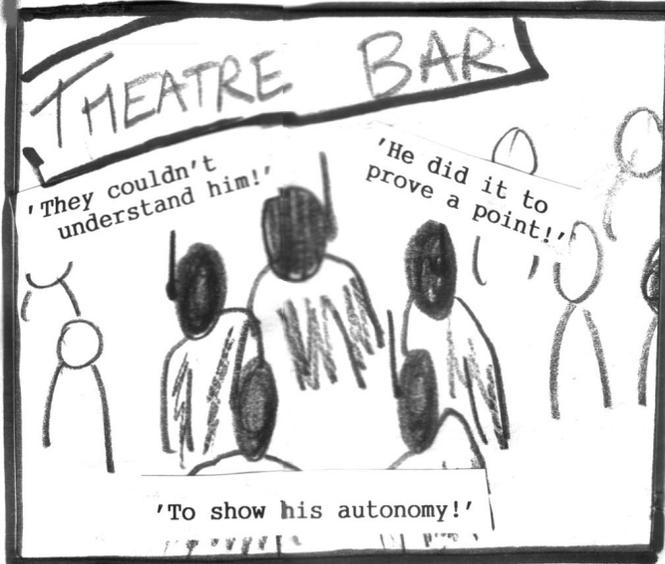
In the bar, there was heated argument and debate. The critics pounced on Brian's constructors and management: who took the credit but didn't know what had happened...



The cellist, violinist and mridangam player congratulated themselves and searched for compliments and flattery...



And the five at the far end of the audience turned out to be robots too, and they argued loudly...



Of course, these five robots are a bit possessive about Brian. After all, he's become their hero....

