

# The Business Cycle

for Soprano and Piano

Jason V. Barabba

Texts by  
Russell Ackoff  
Vincent P. Barabba  
Abraham Maslow

# The Business Cycle

Approximate Duration – 12 minutes

1. The Use of Information
2. Essential Properties
3. Seeing Reality
4. Acceptance of the Mystery of Life
5. Uncertainty

This piece is a birthday gift for my father, who has written several books about business. I chose to include texts from Russell Ackoff and Abraham Maslow, authors who have influenced dad's work. In the process of working on this piece, it became clear to me, that there is an enormous amount of "philosophy" in the study of business that overlaps with an improved understanding of the bigger issues of life. I have always admired my father's direct approach to the world, and hope to someday live up to Maslow's "Acceptance of the Mysteries of Life" as well as he has.

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# Texts

## 1. The Use of Information

It is difficult to think of a topic that is more basic to the conduct of human affairs than the use of information. The use, nonuse, misuse, and abuse of information is about as fundamental and pervasive a social and psychological process as one can find.

Vincent P. Barabba  
*Hearing the Voice of the Market*

## 2. Essential Properties

The essential properties of a system taken as a whole derive from the *interactions* of its parts, not their actions taken separately. Therefore, *when a system is taken apart it loses its essential properties*. Because of this -- and this is the critical point - - a system is a whole that cannot be understood by analysis.

Russell Ackoff  
*Creating the Corporate Future*

## 3. Seeing Reality

Each of us sees the world through a unique set of lenses that is determined by our personal experiences, our responsibilities, and our singular interests. The result is that none of us, either as an individual or as a part of a functional group, sees reality in its entirety."

Vincent P. Barabba  
*Meeting of the Minds*

## 4. Acceptance of the Mystery of Life

One of the things that I have learned from existential psychology is that so many of the basic and serious problems of life are unsolvable, in that they're impossible to understand, to make any sense of, or to be rational about; they just *are*. Therefore, about the only way to handle them is simply to recognize their existence and to accept them with as little fuss as possible, and wherever possible enjoy them in their richness and mystery.

Abraham H. Maslow  
*Eupsychian Management*

## 5. Uncertainty

Lacking a crystal ball, one can only assume that the future will be different from the present. The degree of difference is, of course, what every enterprise would like to know ... accept the reality that we can not know with precision what the future holds and learn how to design business plans and strategies to deal with that uncertainty.

Vincent P. Barabba  
*Surviving Transformation*

*for dad*

# #1 - The Use of Information

**Presto - Simply (Approx. ♩=160)**

Soprano

Piano

*f* *p* *mf* *mp*

Without Pedal, but legato

7 *mf*

It is dif - fi - cult to think of a to -

12

pic more ba - sic to the con-duct of hu-man a-ffairs

17 *f*

than the use of in - for - ma - tion

22 *mp*

*f* *p* *mf*

29 *mf* *mp* *f*

The use non - use

*mp*

34 *mp* *mf*

and a - buse of in - for - ma - tion is a -

*mf*

39 *f* *mf* *mp* *mf*

bout as fun - da - men - tal and per - va - sive a

*f* *mf* *mp*

44

so - cial and psy - cho - lo - gi - cal pro - cess

48

as one can find

*mp*

# #2 - Essential Properties

text - Russell Ackoff

54 **With Gravitas (Approx. ♩=80)**

*mf*

The e - s - s - e - n - t - i - a - l      p - r - o - p - e - r - t - i - e - s

**With Gravitas (Approx. ♩=80)**

of a sy - stem ta - ken as a whole de - rive from the in - ter - ac - tions of its parts not their ac - tions

ta - ken sep - e - ra - tely — there - fore Without Tension when a sy - stem

**Slightly Slower (Approx. ♩=72)**

Gliding

*legato*

is ta - ken a - part — it lo - ses its e - s - s - e - n - t - i - a - l p - r - o - p - e - r - t - i - e - s



79 *mp*

be - cause \_\_\_\_\_ of this \_\_\_\_\_ and

Steady - Don't Rush

83 *mp*

this is the cri-ti-cal point a

*p* *mf* *f*

89

sy - stem is a whole that can - not be un - der - stood by a -

*mp*

94

na - ly - sis

*pp* *p*

text - Vincent P. Barabba

## 3. Seeing Reality

98 **With Much Energy (Approx  $\text{♩} = 144$ )**

*f*

107

*f*

Each of us sees \_\_\_\_\_ the

*mf*

8va

116

world \_\_\_\_\_ through a u-nique set of len - ses \_\_\_\_\_

(8)

*f*

124