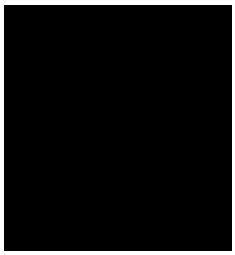

D.J. WOLF

100,000,000,000,000
Pieces for Clarinet

(provisional score 18.12.2012)

MATERIAL PRESS

100,000,000,000,000
Pieces for Clarinet

These pieces are an homage to Raymond Queneau, and in particular to his remarkable *Cent mille milliards de poèmes*, a sequence of ten pages of fourteen lines which may be recombined by taking the first line of any of the ten pages, following it with the second line of any page, then the third line of any page and so forth, such that a total of 100,000,000,000,000 — 10 to the 14th power — poems may be found, each of which shares the same sonnet form and rhyme scheme.

In contrast to Queneau's abab abab cce dde rhyme scheme and alexandrine metre, these pieces follow the usual English pattern for the sonnet, end-rhyming (in tones) abab cdcd efef gg and are in a form of pentameter. As with Queneau, the ten source pages of this piece each share tonal, thematic, or technical concerns, but these are also distributed laterally throughout the piece. There is also a rough degree of increasing progressive technical difficulty from page to page.

The pieces may be played on any size of clarinet and a performance of a selection of pieces might profit from changing instruments from piece to piece. Instruments might be changed within individual pieces if the instruments chosen are of the same transposition (i.e. all Eb or all Bb instruments.) The player may prepare fixed sequences of lines into one or more pieces in advance of a concert or may assemble pieces spontaneously from all of the pages with which he or she is familiar. The ten pages may be assembled into a book and sliced into strips which may be flipped back and forth as needed to select the lines of a piece, or fixed versions may be cut-and-pasted together. Alternatively, a 14 page score (in A4 format) is available in which each page presents the ten possibilities for each line, so that a player may position the pages across an array of music stands, and play any one line from each successive page. (For concert programs, the individual pieces may each be identified by a number between 0 and 99,999,999,999,999, in which each successive digit identifies the source of each successive line by its respective page number (with the tenth page numbered zero; the first printed page, then, is piece number 11,111,111,111,111.))

Accidentals hold within a measure, but only in the given octave. Dynamics are sparsely indicated, with the dynamic of the first measures indicating a general level for the following piece and any additional dynamics supplied applying only to their immediate musical context.

The pieces should be phrased more in the spirit of a poem than in a strictly metered work of music. Breaths should be distributed with some sensitivity to the overall continuity of the work, without over-emphasizing the divisions into lines and stanzas, but rather taking advantage of both sudden breaks and unexpected connections in the progress from line to line.

These pieces were written for Taylan Susam, who asked for them, although I'm not certain he asked for so much: Given that each piece lasts about one and a half minutes, including some breathing space between, a complete performance would last for more than 285 million years.

Daniel James Wolf

Tenderly ♩. = 48

A1

15/8

p

A2

A3

A4

A5

A6

A7

A8

VI.

A9

A10

A11

A12

A13

A14

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Bucolically ♩. = 48

B1

15/8

pp

B2

B3

B4

B5

B6

B7

B8

B9

B10

B11

B12

B13

B14

Smoothly ♩. = 48

C1

mp

C2

C3

C4

C5

C6

C7

C8

C9

C10

C11

C12

C13

C14

Nonchalantly ♩. = 48

D1

D2

D3

D4

D5

D6

D7

D8

D9

D10

D11

D12

D13

D14

Conventionally ♩. = 48

E1

15/8

mf

E2

E3

E4

E5

E6

E7

E8

E9

E10

E11

E12

E13

E14

Extemporaneously ♩. = 48

F1

15/8

ff

F2

F3

F4

F5

F6

F7

F8

F9

F10

F11

F12

F13

F14

Ornithologically ♩. = 48

G1

G2

G3

G4

G5

G6

G7

G8

G9

G10

G11

G12

G13

G14

Archaically ♩. = 48

H1

H2

H3

H4

H5

H6

H7

H8

H9

H10

H11

H12

H13

H14

Absentmindedly ♩. = 48

l1
15/8
più p

l2
più p

l3
più p

l4
più p

l5
più p

l6
3
più p
3

l7
più p

l8
più p

l9
più p

l10
p
più p

l11
mf
3
più p

l12
più p

l13
tr
più p
3

l14
più p

Tempestuously-in-a-Teapot-ly ♩. = 48

J1

15/8

mf

J2

5:4

3

J3

3

J4

3

J5

J6

J7

3

J8

J9

7:6

3

J10

J11

3

J12

J13

3:2

3:2

7:6

più ***p***

J14

p ***mf*** ***f*** ***ff***

3