



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

The musical score consists of 14 staves, labeled A1 through A14. Each staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a time signature of 15/8. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 48. The first staff (A1) includes a dynamic marking of *p*. The notation features a variety of note values, including quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes, often grouped with slurs. Some staves contain rests or specific articulation marks like accents. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of staff A14.

Bucolically ♩ = 48

B1 *pp*

B2

B3

B4

B5

B6

B7

B8

B9

B10

B11

B12

B13

B14

Detailed description: This page contains 14 staves of musical notation, labeled B1 through B14. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 3/8 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Bucolically' with a quarter note equal to 48 beats per minute. The first staff (B1) begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes), rests, and slurs. Some staves feature accidentals (sharps and naturals) and a fermata over a final note. The overall style is pastoral and lyrical.

Smoothly ♩. = 48

C1 *mp*

C2

C3

C4

C5

C6

C7

C8

C9

C10

C11

C12

C13

C14

Nonchalantly ♩ = 48 4

p

D1

D2

D3

D4

D5

D6

D7

D8

D9

D10

D11

D12

D13

D14

Conventionally ♩ = 48

The musical score consists of 14 staves, labeled E1 through E14, arranged vertically. The key signature is one flat (F major or D minor), and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked as 'Conventionally ♩ = 48'. The dynamics begin with *mf* (mezzo-forte) on the first staff. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, such as eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Slurs are used to group notes across several staves, particularly in E8, E11, and E13. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the final staff, E14.

Extemporaneously ♩ = 48

The musical score consists of 14 staves, labeled F1 through F14, in 3/8 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score begins with a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) on the first staff. The music is characterized by complex rhythmic patterns, including numerous triplets and sextuplets. Staves F3, F6, F9, and F10 contain prominent triplet and sextuplet passages. Staves F10 and F11 feature 7:6 and 8:6 rhythmic groupings. The piece concludes with a final cadence on the 14th staff.

G1 *mf*

G2

G3

G4

G5

G6

G7

G8

G9

G10

G11

G12

G13

G14

H1 *mp*

H2

H3

H4

H5 *f*

H6 *f pp*

H7 *mp*

H8

H9

H10 *mf f ff*

H11 *ppp pp p mp mf*

H12

H13 *tr*

H14

Musical score for 'Absentmindedly' by Debussy, measures 11-14. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 48. The dynamics range from *p* (piano) to *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and triplets.

Measure 11: *p*

Measure 12: *p*

Measure 13: *p*

Measure 14: *p*

Measure 15: *p*

Measure 16: *p*

Measure 17: *p*

Measure 18: *p*

Measure 19: *p*

Measure 110: *p*

Measure 111: *mf*

Measure 112: *p*

Measure 113: *p*

Measure 114: *p*

mf

5:4

3

3

3

7:6

3

3:2

3:2

7:6

p

mf

f

ff

più p

This musical score consists of 14 measures, labeled J1 through J14, in a 3/8 time signature. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure J1 begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measures J3, J4, J7, and J11 contain triplet markings. Measure J9 features a 7:6 ratio marking. Measure J13 includes 3:2 ratio markings. Measure J14 shows a dynamic progression from piano (*p*) to mezzo-forte (*mf*), then forte (*f*), and finally fortissimo (*ff*). The score includes various articulations such as slurs, accents, and breath marks, as well as phrasing slurs. The tempo is indicated as quarter note = 48.