Paul Clift

## Sous les pavés

for thirteen instruments
duration ca. 10 minutes

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## Premiered by Either/Or on 12 April, 2014 at The DiMenna Center, New York

- flutes
- flute in C
- bass flute
- clarinets
- Bb-clarinet [IF POSSIBLE with low-Eb key - many Buffet Crampon models have this]
- bass-clarinet
- a small note-pad is required (for explanation, see Performance Notes: General)
- saxophone
- soprano
- baritone [MUST have low-A key]
- bassoon (special fingerings \& multiphonics necessitate the use of a German model)
- a small note-pad is required (for explanation, see Performance Notes: General)
- trumpet [MUST be C]
- harmon mute
- a small note-pad is required (for explanation, see Performance Notes: General)
- trombone [a trigger trombone ('tenor-bass') is required; furthermore, owing to the use of a bassoon crook \& reed, the use of a second trombone, prepared before performance, may be desirable]. For details on the use of the bassoon crook \& reed, go to:
http://www.paulclift.net/pieces/sous-les-paves/trombone.html
- wah mute (consistently used with the stem removed)
- cup mute
- bassoon bocal \& reed required
- MP3 player is also required (for explanation, see Performance Notes: General)
- a small note-pad is required (for explanation, see Performance Notes: General)
- tuba [MUST be 4-valve BBb contrabass (either 'non-compensating' or 'compensating' is suitable)]
- a small note-pad is required (for explanation, see Performance Notes: General)
- accordion (preferably button accordion, with cassotto)

MP3 player is also required (for explanation, see Performance Notes: General)

- percussion (one player)
thunder-sheet
bass-drum
vibraphone
a sheet of tin foil roughly $30 \times 30 \mathrm{cms}$.
a sheet of cellophane, the kind that makes a 'scratchy, hissy' sound when crumpled
For mallets, see the Percussion section in 'Performance Notes'
MP3 player is also required (for explanation, see Performance Notes: General)
- electric guitar
- volume pedal
- overdrive
phaser pedal
- e-bow
- a small note-pad is required (for explanation, see Performance Notes: General)

MP3 player is also required (for explanation, see Performance Notes: General)

- cello
practise mute required, preferably one made of metal
- two contrabasses
small clothes-pegs are required for preparations (both players)


## PROGRAMME NOTE:

Sous les pavés, (PROGRAMME NOTE FORTHCOMING)
I would like to thank Estelle Costanzo, William Dougherty, and Anja Brezavšček for their help in the creation of this work.
Basel, September 2013

## Texts:

Si par rapport à l'idée qu'il représente, le signifiant apparaît comme librement choisi, en revanche, par rapport à la communauté (...) qui l'emploie, il n'est pas libre, il est imposé. La masse sociale n'est point consultée, et le signifiant choisi (...) ne pourrait être remplacé par un autre. Non seulement un individu serait incapable, s'il le voulait, de modifier en quoi que ce soit le choix qui a été fait, mais la masse ellemême ne peut exercer sa souveraineté sur un seul mot.
n'importe quelle époque (...) la langue apparaît toujours comme un héritage de l'époque précédente. (...) Aucune société ne connaît et n’a jamais connu la langue autrement que comme un produit hérite des générations précédentes et à prendre tel quel. (...) Un état de langue donné est toujours le produit de facteurs historiques, et ce sont ces facteurs qui expliquent pourquoi le signe est immuable, c'est-à-dire resiste a toute substitution arbitraire.
Le temps, qui assure la continuité de la langue, a un autre effet, en apparence contradictoire au premier : celui d'altérer plus ou moins rapidement les signes (...) Le signe est dans le cas de s'altérer parce qu'il se continue. Ce qui domine dans toute altération, c'est la persistance de la matière ancienne; l'infidélité au passé n'est que relative. Voilà pourquoi le principe d'altération se fonde sur le principe de continuité. (...) Quels que soient les facteurs d'altération, qu'ils agissent isolément ou combinés, ils aboutissent toujours à un déplacement du rapport entre le signifié et le signifiant.

Ferdinand de Saussure, redacted extracts from Cours de Linguistique Générale (1916)
No painting stops with itself, is complete of itself. It is a continuation of previous paintings and is renewed in successive ones...
My work is not influenced by anybody.
I have painted some dark pictures, some light ones. I will probably go on doing so...
never wanted color to be color. I never wanted texture to be texture, or images to become shapes.
deplore the overemphasis on words... they are imperfect instruments, unconsciously burdened with significances that rebound dangerously on the viewer.

## Performance Notes \& Special Notation

## General

 or all of the text be comprehensible.
 devices is of relatively little importance. Indeed, a 'tinny' artificial sound is desirable. The required files are available to download here

- trombone:
http://www.paulclift.net/pieces/sous-les-paves/tbn-track-1.mp3
- percussion:
http://www.paulclift.net/pieces/sous-les-paves/perc-track-1.mp3
http://www.paulclift.net/pieces/sous-les-paves/perc-track-2.mp3
http://www.paulclift.net/pieces/sous-les-paves/perc-track-3.mp3
http://www.paulclift.net/pieces/sous-les-paves/perc-track-4.mp3
- guitar:
- http://www.paulclift.net/pieces/sous-les-paves/gtr-track-1.mp3
- accordion:
http://www.paulclift.net/pieces/sous-les-paves/acc-track-1.mp3
 'squeaky' sound. An example of the intended effect may be heard here: http://www.paulclift.net/pieces/sous-les-paves/note-pad.htm


## Performance Notes \& Special Notation (cont'd)

## Flutes

The flute part uses a number of multiphonics whose fingerings are taken from either Carin Levine's two treatises, The Techniques of Flute Playing; fingerings are provided as these multiphonics occur in the score. Please make every effort to produce ONLY the indicated notes (and not any others which may exist with the indicated fingering).
fltz. flutter-tongue
U turn flute inwards in order to lower pitch
[h] (with air sounds) a phonetic 'h' (like the throaty sound one would make when breathing onto a pair of glasses in order to clean them)
(1) (2) (3) In section C (bass flute), bisbigliando fingerings are provided and assigned a circled number
(used with air sound only) embouchure should be completely covered, i.e. all air goes inside the instrument
لair-sound ONLY - breathing out, with ALL air passing through the instrument (i.e. with a closed embouchure)
(section E1) multiphonic trill

## Clarinets

The clarinet part uses a number of multiphonics; fingerings are provided as these multiphonics occur in the score. Please make every effort to produce ONLY the indicated notes (and not any others which may exist with the indicated fingering).
Furthermore, fingerings are occasionally suggested for quarter-tones (as in section C5).
In section D4, the performer is asked to speak into (i.e. with the embouchure completely covered) the clarinet with the mouthpiece removed.

bisbigliando, colour-trill

Hauptstimmme - the 'upper' (i.e. the 'lead') voice relative to other, homogenous material which is labelled Nebenstimme ('lower' voice)
switch to an alternate fingering of the same pitch, without re-articulating the new note
switch to an alternate fingering of the same pitch, re-articulating the new note

## SAXOPHONES

The saxophone part uses a number of multiphonics, all of which were taken from Marcus Weiss' The Techniques of Saxophone Playing; fingerings are provided as these multiphonics occur in the score. Please make every effort to produce ONLY the indicated notes (and not any others which may exist with the indicated fingering).
bisb. bisbigliando, colour-trill
$\boldsymbol{\theta} \quad$ cut off note abruptly by 'muting' the reed with the tongue
fltz. flutter-tongue
$\mathbf{N}^{\cdots \cdots . . . . . . . ᄀ ~ N e b e n s t i m m e ~-~ t h e ~ ' l o w e r ' ~(i . e . ~ ' s u b o r d i n a t e ') ~ v o i c e ~ r e l a t i v e ~ t o ~ o t h e r, ~ h o m o g e n o u s ~ m a t e r i a l ~ w h i c h ~ i s ~}$ labelled Hauptstimme ('upper' voice)

## BASSOON

The bassoon part uses a number of multiphonics whose fingerings are taken from either Sergio Penazzi's The Bassoon - Other Techniques or Leslie Ross' online publication, Multiphonics for Modern Bassoon; fingerings are provided as these multiphonics occur in the score.
bisb.
isbigliando, colour-trill; occasionally an indication regarding the rate of the 'trill' is given ('faster', 'slower' etc.)
$\theta$ cut off note abruptly by 'muting' the reed with the tongue

switch to an alternate fingering of the same pitch, without re-articulating the new note
[h]
(with air-sounds) a phonetic 'h' (like the throaty sound one would make when breathing onto a pair of glasses in order to clean them)

## fltz. flutter-tongue

|| Since it is unnecessary to illustrate the exact pitch content of each multiphonic, this notation, which illustrates the most important pitch(es) is deemed sufficient.
switch to an alternate fingering of the same pitch, re-articulating the new note
」 air-sound ONLY - breathing out, with ALL air passing through the instrument (i.e. with a closed embouchure)

## Performance Notes \＆Special Notation（cont＇d）

## TRUMPET

The trumpet used must be in C （and NOT in $\mathrm{B} b$ ）because of certain fingerings．

| bisb． | bisbigliando，colour－trill；occasionally an indication regarding the rate of the＇trill＇is given（＇faster＇， ＇slower＇etc．） | fltz． | flutter－tongue |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\checkmark$ | air－sound ONLY－breathing out，with ALL air passing through the instrument（i．e．with a closed embouchure）． | $\wedge$ | air－sound ONLY－breathing in，with ALL air passing through the instrument（i．e．with a closed embouchure）． |
| ［ø］ | （with air－sounds）NO sound from the mouth or throat，simply pass air through the instrument | ［J］ | a phonetic＇sh＇as in shirt |

## Trombone

The notation for the trombone is more－or－less standard in sections A－E．In section F the trombonist is asked to remove the mouthpiece and replace it with a bassoon crook \＆reed．This effect is accompanied by the use of a wah－mute（stem removed）which is periodically inserted and removed from the bell of the instrument．The effect should be a noisy，＇whooshing＇sound．For details and a demonstration of this，go to：http：／／www．paulclift．net／pieces／sous－les－ paves／trombone．html
fltz．flutter－tongue
open without any mute
［ $\varnothing]$（with air－sounds）NO sound from the mouth or throat，simply pass air through the instrument

## TUBA

In contrast to the other instruments in the ensemble，the notation for the tuba is entirely standard（or special cases are explained as they occur in the score）．There are occasional quarter－tones，which should be achieved with the embouchure；as such，there may be some instability or beating between the tuba and other instruments playing the same pitch；this is not bad（！）but should not be intentionally emphasised or exaggerated．

## AcCordion

The notation for the accordion is more－or－less standard throughout，with only a couple of exceptions．
In section E the accordionist is required to switch registers（in the left hand only）while playing，without any break．
$\downarrow$ bellow air
cluster with all pitches between the two indicated note

（in section D4）a tremolo on the indicated note，whereby that note is not depressed completely but only very gently；the effect should be a gently oscillating，with a slight＇wah＇quality．

## Percussion

The following percussion instruments are required：

## large bass drum

large thunder sheet
vibraphone（plugged in！！）
a sheet of tin foil roughly $30 \times 30 \mathrm{cms}$
a sheet of cellophane，the kind that makes a＇scratchy，hissy＇sound when crumpled
The following mallets are required

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# medium yarn mallets
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hard yarn mallets
憲 very soft yarn malletssoft bass－drum beater

## Performance Notes \& Special Notation (cont'd)

## Electric Guitar

## The guitar has the following scordatura:



The following effect pedals are required:
overdrive (or comparable) phaser
volume pedal
The above-listed pedals should be organised in the following order:


The notation is standard wherever possible. Please take note of the following
ALL glissandi are done by simply sliding the finger up the neck (i.e. no slide is used)
Occasionally, the guitarist is instructed to "allow feedback to emerge", either on a given string or on all strings. In the case of the former, all other strings should be muted. This is something which the guitarist should experiment with during rehearsals. The sound generated through acoustic feedback should NOT overpower the ensemble, but rather, blend subtly with the other instruments.
The choice of bridge or neck pickup, as well as the precise settings on the amplifier, are left to the guitarist. A heavy, distorted 'rock' guitar sound is desirable, but not (!!) to the extent that it overpowers the ensemble. No additional effects which may be built in to the amplifier (such as reverb, additional distortion) should be used. It is important that by cutting the input with the volume pedal, that the amplifier be silent (and not hissing or buzzing).
The dynamics indicated may be achieved either by playing at a consistent dynamic and manipulating the volume pedal or by adjusting the intensity of the right hand. The guitar output level should NOT be altered, as this will reduce the intensity of the distortion
The volume pedal is occasionally given its own stave; in these cases, the bottom line represents a MUTE and the top line indicated MAXIMUM VOLUME
An e-bow is required in section $\mathbf{F}$; this should b set to 'fundamental' and not 'harmonics' (most e-bows have these settings nowadays).
ل pluck completely muted string (a noisy, percussive sound with little-to-no clear pitch-content)
with plectrum (medium thickness)
(-) $\quad \begin{aligned} & \text { (in sectio } \\ & \text { feedback. }\end{aligned}$
$\not$ without plectrum

## Performance Notes \& Special Notation (contd)

## Cello \& Contrabasses

The cello has the following scordatura:


Contrabass I has the following scordatura:


The 'seagull' effect is used a great deal in this piece, both in ascending and descending motion.
In sections D2-6 both contrabasses must be 'prepared' by attaching clothes-pegs to the strings in approximately the positions indicated; the effect, when played pizzicato, should be evocative of a gong. There should not be any kind of buzzing sound, but rather, a somewhat dull, inharmonic resonance. Special care should be taken to ensure that the pegs do not move or fall off during performance!
Sections D \& E require high harmonics in all three strings; the indicated pitches should be stable and precise; the position of the bow is important in maintaining this stability
s.p
sul ponticello (i.e. the indicated pitch should sound clearly, but with a 'nasal' tone
sul tasto
molto sul ponticello (i.e. the indicated pitch will not necessarily sound; rather other harmonics will emerge sporadically)
alto sul tasto (i.e. quite high over the fingerboard, where possible)
lateral vibrato - used in combination with harmonics (i.e. vibrato which is achieved by varying the pressure of the finger which is producing the harmonic -pushing closer towards the fingerboard and then relaxing the pressure-, so that the string stretches slightly, producing a 'wavering' sound; NOT traditional vibrato),
NB. If simply 'vibr.' is indicated, a traditional mode of vibrato should be used
with extremely light bow-pressure, as would be used with flautando
abruptly mute the indicated string(s) to give a very sharp cut-off
(contrabass II in C1) This clef indicates positions, ranging from sul tasto to molto sul ponticello. In this case, whilst bowing almost on top of the bridge, the contrabassist should use several fingers of the left hand to mute the string while sliding all fingers up and down (towards and away from the bridge), creating a sort of 'flanger' effect.








$$
\mathbf{C 1} \quad d=88
$$









${ }^{13} \mathbf{C 6}$























