## Paul Clift

# objets à réaction poétique 

for nineteen instruments
duration ca. 12 minutes

# objets à reaction poétique 

with texts from Duineser Elegien: Die erste Elegie by Rainer Maria Rilke and citations from Maurice Ravel's Concerto for Piano in G Major

## for nineteen instruments

- flute I (alto, piccolo; small notepad [see performance notes] also required)
- flute II (flute in C, piccolo, bass; small notepad [see performance notes] also required)
- clarinet (in Bb, bass)
- saxophone (soprano, baritone)
- bassoon; small notepad [see performance notes] also required
- four tenor-bass trombones;
- trombone I: bucket mute, harmon; spring-coil placed flat on a soft surface and a drumstick also required
- trombone II: bucket mute; spring-coil placed flat on a soft surface and a drumstick also required
- trombone III: bucket mute, harmon; spring-coil placed flat on a soft surface and a drumstick also required
- trombone IV: bucket mute, harmon; spring-coil placed flat on a soft surface and a drumstick also required
- percussion I:
- suspended spring-coil
- medium thunder-sheet ( $\sim 120 \times 70 \mathrm{~cm}$ )
- small timpani with medium cymbal placed upon it
- large spring-drum
- bass drum
- medium or small suspended cymbal
- vibraphone
- tubular bells (G\#4 \& A\#4 only)
- percussion II:
- medium thunder-sheet ( $\sim 120 \times 70 \mathrm{~cm}$ - ideally, one that is identical to that of percussion I)
- bass drum
- large spring-drum
- tubular bells (G4 \& A4 only)
- harp: two medium-thickness plectra are required; small notepad [see performance notes] also required
- two pianos
- piano II; small notepad [see performance notes] also required
- accordion; small notepad [see performance notes] also required
- violin I: practice mute
- violin II
- viola
- cello: practice mute; small notepad [see performance notes] also required


## GenerAl


'Note-pads': In sections A, B \& C, six performers (bassoon, harp, accordion, piano II, cello, flutes I \& II) are required to play on small note-pads; on these occasions, the musician should blow into the pages in order to produce a very high-pitched 'squeaky' sound. A demonstration of the intended effect may be heard here: www.paulclift.net/pieces/oarp/note-pad.htm

For all spoken texts, performers should mumble somewhat indistinctly; text should not be clearly intelligible for the audience(!!) but rather, should constitute a sort of 'murmuring' in the background.

Trombones \& woodwinds are required to speak directly into their instruments; this should be done with a completely closed embouchure, so that all sound passes through the instrument. In the case of woodwinds, fingering should be freely and randomly changed, in order to 'filter' the sound of the voice.

## FLutes

Most special techniques/notations used in this piece are explained in the score as they appear

The flute parts use 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). If a given multiphonic does not sound on your instrument, please consider using an alternate instrument; the exact pitches of all multiphonics is of crucial importance.

Spatial notation is also used in sections A \& B; in these cases, the flautist should switch fingering according to the approximate position of the note head in the bar.

| fltz. | flutter-tongue | (1) (2) (3) | In section C (bass flute), bisbigliando fingerings are provided and assigned a circled number |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| bisb. | bisbigliando, timbral-trill |  | alternate notation of bisbigliando, but this time with a strict rhythm; switch to an alternate fingering of the same pitch, without re-articulating the new note |
|  | multiphonic trill |  | cluster |

## Clarinet (Bb \& bass)

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). If a given multiphonic does not sound on your instrument, please consider using an alternate instrument; the exact pitches of all multiphonics is of crucial importance.

In section D4, the performer is asked to speak into (i.e. with the embouchure completely covered) the clarinet with the mouthpiece removed.

| bisb. | bisbigliando, timbral-trill | fltz. | flutter-tongue |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | alternate notation of bisbigliando, but this time with a strict rhythm; switch <br> to an alternate fingering of the same pitch, without re-articulating the new <br> note | $\boldsymbol{\varphi}$ | cut off note abruptly by 'muting' the reed with the tongue |

## SAXOPHONE

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 | fltz. | flutter-tongue |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | alternate notation of bisbigliando, but this time with a strict rhythm; switch <br> to an alternate fingering of the same pitch, without re-articulating the new <br> note | $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ | cut off note abruptly by 'muting' the reed with the tongue |

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

| 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. | bisbigliando, colour-trill; occasionally an indication regarding the rate of the 'trill' is given ('faster', 'slower' etc.) | fltz. | flutter-tongue |
| $\bigcirc$ | alternate notation of bisbigliando, but this time with a strict rhythm; switch to an alternate fingering of the same pitch, without rearticulating the new note | $\theta$ | cut off note abruptly by 'muting' the reed with the tongue |
| TROMBONE |  |  |  |
| The notation for the trombone is more-or-less standard. The following mutes are required: <br> - trombone I: bucket mute, harmon <br> - trombone II: bucket mute <br> - trombone III: bucket mute, harmon <br> - trombone IV: bucket mute, harmon <br> All four trombonists are also required to play on spring-coils in section C. In this part: <br> - a suspension spring-coil should be laid flat on a soft surface (such as a cloth or a layer of Styrofoam) <br> - using a wooden drumstick, a tremolo should be performed, by tapping rapidly in between to 'rows' of the coil (similarly to the way in which one would perform a tremolo on a triangle) <br> - at the same time, using the other hand, the coil should be freely rolled backwards \& forth; the effect should be to subtly filter the resonances of the coil |  |  |  |
| fltz. | flutter-tongue | open | without any mute |
| Percussion |  |  |  |
| Percussion I: <br> - suspended spring-coil <br> - medium thunder-sheet ( $\sim 120 \times 70 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) <br> - small timpani with medium cymbal placed upon it <br> - large spring-drum <br> - bass drum <br> - medium or small suspended cymbal <br> - vibraphone <br> - tubular bells (G\#4 \& A\#4 only) <br> Percussion II: <br> - medium thunder-sheet ( $\sim 120 \times 70 \mathrm{~cm}$ - ideally, one that is identical to that of percussion I) <br> - bass drum <br> - large spring-drum <br> - tubular bells (G4 \& A4 only) |  |  |  |
| 9 | dium timpani mallets | 米 | hard yarn mallets |
| 受 | y soft yarn mallets | $\square$ | soft, large bass-drum beater |
| 1 | oden drumstick | $\square$ | contrabass bow |
| - | uptly cut resonance |  |  |

## Pianos

piano II: using a piece of wood, strike the strings of the instrument
directly and aggressively; the indicated pitches a re simply a rough-
guide, as access to strings, from one model of instrument to another,
is not consistent.

## Strings

- Violins I \& II both have a scordatura on the third string:

- The 'seagull' effect is used a great deal in section A, in particular with ascending motion; every effort should be made to create a consistent sound with each instance.
- all vibrato on harmonics should be performed 'laterally', i.e. 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).

| s.p | bow sul ponticello; with the indicated pitch still sounding clearly, but with a 'nasal' tone | flaut. | flautando |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| m.s.p | bow molto sul ponticello; with predominantly high harmonics sounding, rather than the indicated pitch | $\cdots$ | with extreme bow-pressure; 'scratch sound' |
| s.t | bow sul tasto | $\square$ | with somewhat exaggerated bow-pressure; the indicated pitch still sounds more-or-less clearly, but the intonation is unstable and the timbre is inconsistent |
| a.s.t | bow alto sul tasto; as far down the finger-board as is possible | - | with a light bow-pressure, as with flautando |
| - | abruptly cut resonance (used after a pizzicato) | !-】 | with extremely light bow-pressure, such that the string does not 'speak' |
| \% | This clef, used in the violins I \& II and viola parts in measures 15-17, indicates where the bow should come into contact with strings, covering the whole length of the finger-board; bow motion should be predominantly parallel to the strings, not perpendicular. |  | This clef used in violin I from bar 61 to indicate bowing position behind the bridge. In the case of this section, bowing is always on the cotton winding of the string. <br> Additionally, this clef is used in combination with a four-line stave, whereby each line corresponds to one string of the violin. |
| for violin |  | This notation, from bar 61 onwards, describes a particular effect whereby whilst lightly bowing behind the bridge (on the cotton wiring, very near the fine-tune knobs), a white square note-head indicates muting the string with the left hand, whereas a black notehead indicates that the finger should be removed, thus allowing the string to speak. <br> NB. Do not confuse a white open note-head for a longer duration; the duration of each note is indicated by the stem/tale of each note. <br> The result should be a synthetic, morse-code-like sound in the given rhythm . Try to keep the sound as constant and stable as possible. <br> This effect is in relatively 'free' time, so the violinist need not attempt to repeat the phrase in strict time with the conductor. |  |

## objets à réaction poétique

A1 ${ }^{\boldsymbol{=}} \boldsymbol{7 6}$
A2





A4












A11





A12


































$\mathrm{VIn}$.
















C2













Vln. 1 ( ${ }^{\text {G }}$ I. Q 0
(


| Vln. 1 | $\qquad$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |
|  |  |  | $\cdots . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . ~$ |
|  | 1111 | \| | | | 1 \| 1 |
| Vln. II | Q $e$ | ( | ( |
|  |  |  | $\theta$ |
| Vla. |  | $\boldsymbol{m p}$................................................................................... |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | 9-8 | $3:-$ | 8 |
|  |  | $m p$ |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | $\%$ Sis |  |  |



VIn. 1 VIn. II










D3





D5










