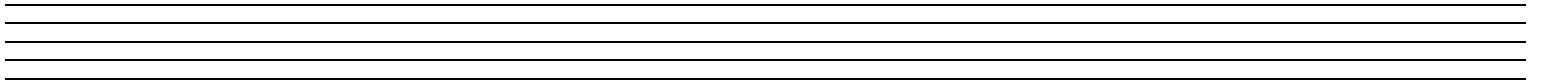


The Library of Babel

open score for spatialized chamber ensemble

Jordan Nobles



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ABOUT THE PIECE

The Library of Babel is composed for a large spatialized ensemble of variable instrumentation. It was commissioned and premiered by the **Vancouver Symphony Orchestra**, with **William Rowson**, conductor on Feb. 23, 2019.

PROGRAMME NOTE

The Library of Babel is inspired by the short story by Argentine author (and librarian) Jorge Luis Borges. In the story the characters live in a universe in the form of an infinite library. Each room of this library contains shelves of books with a seemingly random series of letters. It is theorized that the endless collection of books would contain every possible combination of letters, therefore every work ever written, and everything that ever could be written, including, somewhere, the index to the library itself. While my work is somewhat more finite it does have a series of melodic cells to be performed at the musician's discretion which are taken from an actual melody that never reveals itself.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The Library of Babel has no full score but is an open form work comprised of a plethora of small melodic phrases with a timing number above each of them. There is no collective tempo, or pulse; the piece is coordinated by timers (stopwatch, phone, or clock, etc.) and musicians perform the phrases at their own discretion.

DURATION

The duration is variable. Keep the timers going for as long as desired, or agree ahead of time how long to perform the piece.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Please do not play all of the phrases! They are only options to choose from. Play any that you like, that fits well on your instrument. Play somewhat sparsely, only a few phrases each minute.
- All phrases can be performed in any octave desired as long as a soft dynamic can be observed.
- The numbers above the phrases indicate the timing of when they could be performed. It corresponds to the **SECOND** on the timer that the note should be played, no matter what minute it is on. For instance, a note with a **37** above it could be played at approximately **0:37** and/or **1:37** and/or **7:37**, etc.
- There is no order to the phrases at all. You can jump around to play any phrase on any page as long as the phrase starts at the indicated second. But accuracy is not paramount. If you miss the entry by a second or so it is fine.
- Players can pause at any time to breathe, to reflex, and to listen before proceeding.
- Accidentals apply only to the note they directly precede.
- The rhythm of each phrase can be quite rubato, in your own time.
- All phrases should last less than 6 seconds in total.

NOTE DURATIONS

- = short (approx. 1 second or less)
- = medium (approx. 1-3 seconds)
- ◐ = long (approx. 5 seconds)

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Slowly and very freely. Accidentals apply only to the note they directly precede.

00 *p* *sempre* 11 22 33 44 55

06 17 28 39 50

01 12 23 34 45 56

07 18 29 40 51

02 13 24 35 46 57

08 19 30 41 52

03 14 25 36 47 58

09 20 31 42 53

04 15 26 37 48 59

10 21 32 43 54

05 16 27 38 49

Score in C - Treble Clef

00 12 24 36 48

11 23 35 47 59

01 13 25 37 49

10 22 34 46 58

02 14 26 38 50

09 21 33 45 57

03 15 27 39 51

08 20 32 44 56

04 16 28 40 52

07 19 31 43 55

05 17 29 41 53

06 18 30 42 54

Score in C - Treble Clef

The image displays a musical score in C major, Treble Clef, consisting of 60 numbered measures arranged in 12 rows of five measures each. The notation includes treble clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and various rhythmic values such as quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. Slurs are used to group notes across measures. The measures are numbered sequentially from 00 to 59. The score is presented on a white background with black musical notation.

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Jordan Nobles

Slowly and very freely. Accidentals apply only to the note they directly precede.

00 *p sempre* 11 22 33 44 55

06 17 28 39 50

01 12 23 34 45 56

07 18 29 40 51

02 13 24 35 46 57

08 19 30 41 52

03 14 25 36 47 58

09 20 31 42 53

04 15 26 37 48 59

10 21 32 43 54

05 16 27 38 49

Score in C - Alto Clef

00 12 24 36 48

11 23 35 47 59

01 13 25 37 49

10 22 34 46 58

02 14 26 38 50

09 21 33 45 57

03 15 27 39 51

08 20 32 44 56

04 16 28 40 52

07 19 31 43 55

05 17 29 41 53

06 18 30 42 54

Score in C - Alto Clef

The image displays a musical score for a piece in C major, written for an alto clef. The score consists of 60 measures, numbered from 00 to 59. Each measure is presented on a five-line staff with an alto clef (C4 on the third line). The notation includes various rhythmic values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes), rests, and accidentals (sharps and flats). The music is organized into groups of five measures per row, with the measure number centered above each measure. The first measure (00) begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), which then changes to C major for the remainder of the piece. The notation includes slurs, ties, and dynamic markings such as 'p' (piano) and 'f' (forte).

The Library of Babel

open score for chamber ensemble

Jordan Nobles

Slowly and very freely. Accidentals apply only to the note they directly precede.

00 *p sempre* 11 22 33 44 55

06 17 28 39 50

01 12 23 34 45 56

07 18 29 40 51

02 13 24 35 46 57

08 19 30 41 52

03 14 25 36 47 58

09 20 31 42 53

04 15 26 37 48 59

10 21 32 43 54

05 16 27 38 49

Score in C - Bass Clef

This musical score is presented in bass clef and consists of 60 numbered measures, arranged in a grid of 12 rows and 5 columns. The notation includes various rhythmic values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes), rests, and accidentals (sharps, flats, and naturals). Many measures feature slurs or ties, indicating phrases or sustained notes. The key signature is C major, and the time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be common time (C) based on the note values and phrasing. The measures are numbered sequentially from 00 to 59.

Score in C - Bass Clef

A musical score in bass clef, titled "Score in C - Bass Clef". The score consists of 60 measures, numbered 00 through 59. The notation is arranged in a grid-like fashion, with five measures per row and 12 rows in total. Each measure is represented by a five-line staff with a bass clef. The notes and rests are written in black ink. The key signature is C major, indicated by the absence of sharps or flats. The time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be common time (C). The score features a variety of note values, including quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. Some measures contain rests. The overall structure is a single melodic line.

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Slowly and very freely. Accidentals apply only to the note they directly precede.

00 *p sempre* 11 22 33 44 55

06 17 28 39 50

01 12 23 34 45 56

07 18 29 40 51

02 13 24 35 46 57

08 19 30 41 52

03 14 25 36 47 58

09 20 31 42 53

04 15 26 37 48 59

10 21 32 43 54

05 16 27 38 49

Score in B \flat - Treble Clef

Score in B \flat - Treble Clef

00 13 26 39 52

05 18 31 44 57

10 23 36 49

02 15 28 41 54

07 20 33 46 59

12 25 38 51

04 17 30 43 56

09 22 35 48

01 14 27 40 53

06 19 32 45 58

11 24 37 50

03 16 29 42 55

08 21 34 47

The Library of Babel

open score for chamber ensemble

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Slowly and very freely. Accidentals apply only to the note they directly precede.

00 11 22 33 44 55

06 17 28 39 50

01 12 23 34 45 56

07 18 29 40 51

02 13 24 35 46 57

08 19 30 41 52

03 14 25 36 47 58

09 20 31 42 53

04 15 26 37 48 59

10 21 32 43 54

05 16 27 38 49

Score in F - Treble Clef

00 12 24 36 48

11 23 35 47 59

01 13 25 37 49

10 22 34 46 58

02 14 26 38 50

09 21 33 45 57

03 15 27 39 51

08 20 32 44 56

04 16 28 40 52

07 19 31 43 55

05 17 29 41 53

06 18 30 42 54

Score in F - Treble Clef

The image displays a musical score for a piece in F major, written in treble clef. The score is organized into 12 rows, each containing five measures. The measures are numbered sequentially from 00 to 59. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes), rests, and accidentals (sharps and flats). The key signature of one flat (F major) is indicated by a flat sign on the B line of the staff. The score concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 59.