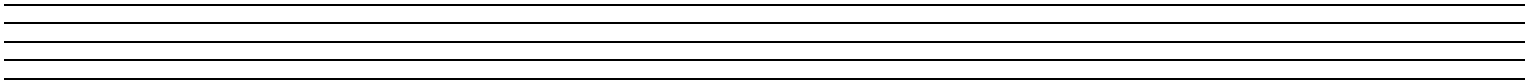


The Library of Babel

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 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 measures of music. The score is organized into 12 rows, with 5 measures per row. Each measure is labeled with its measure number (00 to 59). The notation includes treble clefs, key signatures (one sharp for F#), and various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes) and rests. The music is presented in a clean, black-and-white format.

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

00 *p* sempre

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59

Score in C - Alto Clef

This image displays a musical score for a piece in C major, written for an Alto Clef. The score is organized into ten 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 Alto Clef is indicated by a C-clef on the third line of the staff. The piece concludes with a final sharp sign on the last measure (59).

Score in C - Alto Clef

This image displays a musical score for a piece in C major, written for an alto clef. The score is organized into a grid of measures, with each measure labeled with its measure number. The notation includes a treble clef with a C-clef on the third line, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The score is presented in a clean, black-and-white format, suitable for a digital scorebook or a printed score.

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

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

The image displays a musical score for a piece in C major, written in bass clef. The score is organized into ten rows, each containing six measures. The measures are numbered sequentially from 00 to 59. The notation includes various rhythmic values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes), rests, and accidentals (sharps and flats). The key signature is one sharp (F#), indicating the key of C major. The score concludes with a final measure (60) consisting of a whole rest.

Score in C - Bass Clef

A musical score in bass clef, titled "Score in C - Bass Clef". The score consists of 60 measures, numbered from 00 to 59. The notation is arranged in a grid-like fashion, with five measures per row and four rows per system. The first system contains measures 00-04, the second 05-09, the third 10-14, the fourth 15-19, the fifth 20-24, the sixth 25-29, the seventh 30-34, the eighth 35-39, the ninth 40-44, and the tenth 45-49. The final system contains measures 50-59. The notation includes various rhythmic values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes), rests, and accidentals (sharps, flats, and naturals). The key signature is C major, and the time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be common time (C).

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

00 *p* sempre

01

02

03

04

05

06

07

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18

19

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59

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

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 G - 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 G - 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

Jordan Nobles

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

00 11 22 33 44 55

p sempre

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

The musical score is presented in a grid of 10 rows and 6 columns. The measures are numbered as follows:

- Row 1: 00, 12, 24, 36, 48
- Row 2: 11, 23, 35, 47, 59
- Row 3: 01, 13, 25, 37, 49
- Row 4: 10, 22, 34, 46, 58
- Row 5: 02, 14, 26, 38, 50
- Row 6: 09, 21, 33, 45, 57
- Row 7: 03, 15, 27, 39, 51
- Row 8: 08, 20, 32, 44, 56
- Row 9: 04, 16, 28, 40, 52
- Row 10: 07, 19, 31, 43, 55
- Row 11: 05, 17, 29, 41, 53
- Row 12: 06, 18, 30, 42, 54

Score in F - 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

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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 E \flat - Treble Clef

Score in E \flat - Treble Clef

This image displays a musical score for E-flat major in Treble Clef, organized into measures 00 through 59. The score is presented in a grid-like format with five measures per row. Each measure is labeled with its measure number above the staff. The notes are written in a simplified style, often using stems and dots to represent pitch and rhythm. The key signature is E-flat major, indicated by a flat sign on the B line of the staff. The score includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, key signatures, and note heads with stems. The measures are arranged in a sequence that covers the entire page, with the final measure being measure 59.