

Brian Riordan

**K.**


2015


for bass clarinet, piano, violin, and viola

Composed for the 2015 New Music On The Point Festival

## Microtonal Notation

This piece uses The Helmholtz-Ellis Just Intonation Pitch Notation.

 perform an alteration of 14 cents flat

 perform an alteration of 14 cents lower than an equal tempered sharp

 perform an alteration of 31 cents flat

 perform an alteration of 49 cents sharp

 perform an alteration of 51 cents flat

 perform and alteration of 59 cents flat

# Piano preparations

Below is a list of the keys that are to be prepared. The preparations should be placed on nodes of the string.

The numbers above each key is the approximate distance of each node in inches from the dampeners.

Keys with a single string should use a 3/4 inch mini spring clamp.

Keys with more than one string should be muted with a small piece of art gum.

The image displays three musical staves, each representing a different piano key. Above each staff, a series of vertical lines indicate the positions of nodes on the string, with numerical values in inches above them. The notes on the staves correspond to these nodes.

- Staff 1 (labeled  $8^{vb}$ ):** Nodes are at 2", 17 1/2", 14 1/2", 3 3/4", 13 1/4", 8 1/4", 1 1/4", 15 3/4", 10 1/2", 4", 6 1/2", and 4 1/2".
- Staff 2 (labeled loco):** Nodes are at 8", 4 1/2", 6 1/2", 3 3/4", 6 1/4", 2", 5 3/4", 2 1/2", 4", and 2".
- Staff 3:** Nodes are at 5", 7 3/4", 8 1/2", 6", 5 1/4", 5", 4 3/4", 4 3/4", 4 1/2", and 4 1/4".

## Ebow on Piano

An Ebow is a type of handheld string resonator. Originally designed for playing an electric guitar, an Ebow can be used on the strings inside of the piano. When the Ebow is activated, the sustain pedal must be down in order for the piano string to resonate. It may take a couple seconds to resonate, and at times, the position of the Ebow may need to be adjusted for it to properly resonate. Observe the position of the Ebow in relation to the art gum preparations to know which correct string is to be sounded. The Ebow tends to sound the best when placed above a node of a piano string. The performer should experiment with the Ebow on the piano prior to performance as the results are somewhat unpredictable at times. Dynamics indicated are suggestive, however the Ebow may resonate louder or softer than intended. Volume control can be somewhat attained by pressing the Ebow into the string. Accidental distorted tones by adjusting the Ebow are welcomed.

The switch located on an Ebow has 3 positions. In the score:

“EBOW L” = Turn switch to the left position, this produces the fundamental tone of the piano string. The light should be on

“EBOW (Off)” = Turn switch to center position, the light should turn off and the Ebow is no longer active.

“EBOW R” - Turn switch to the right position, this produces a harmonic of the piano string, in most cases it is the 3rd partial (1 octave + a perfect fifth above the fundamental). In the score, when “EBOW R” is indicated, place the Ebow on the string notated with a diamond note head. The pitch in parenthesis located above the diamond is the intended sounding pitch.

An additional staff located above the piano grand staff has been provided just for the ebow notation.

## **Bass Clarinet Multiphonics**

When a chord is written in the bass clarinet part, it is intended to be a multiphonic. Fingering has been provided. Many bass clarinet models will have a different sound than what is written, the exact pitch isn't as important as the effect created by the multiphonic fingering. However, alternate fingerings can be used if they are capable of performing the pitches that are notated.

## **Violin and Viola**

When an "X" appears as a note head, it is to be played as a scratch tone that is totally saturated sound with dense granulation and little or no discernible pitch.

# K.

Brian Riordan

① (♩ = c. 60)

**Bass Clarinet**

**Ebow**  
EBOW L  
*mf*  
Pedal til m. 18  
EBOW R

**Piano**

**Violin**  
S.P. ----- Ord.  
*ppp* ----- *mf*

**Viola**  
S.P. ----- Ord.  
*ppp* ----- *mf*

9

B. Cl.

Ebow

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

*ppp* *mf* *ppp* *f*

Distort by pressing Ebow into String

P.S.P. M.S.P.

*ppp* *mf* *f*

IV

*ppp* *mf* *f*

