

5 Poems of
Nicholas Barker
for chamber ensemble

Mark Chambers

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duration: ca. 20'

Mark Chambers (b. 1969)

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INSTRUMENTATION

Flute
(double Piccolo)

Clarinet in B^b
(double Bass Clarinet in B^b)

Violin

Cello

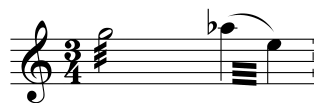
Piano

Tenor

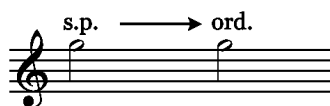
Percussion
(Suspended Cymbal, China Cymbal,
4 Temple Blocks [Low to High],
3 Bongos [Low, Medium, High],
3 Toms [Low, Medium, High],
Tam Tam, Large Bass Drum,
Vibraphone [with Bow],
Marimba)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- Score is transposed.
- All accidentals remain in effect throughout the measure at the register indicated.
- Grace notes should always be played before the beat.
- Flutter-tongue, trills, and tremolo should always be played unmeasured, and as fast as possible.
- All trills are at the half step unless otherwise indicated. The primary note should be articulated first.
- In the strings and piano, tremolo is indicated with slashes through the note stem, or between stems. In the flute and clarinet, slashes indicate fluttertongue.



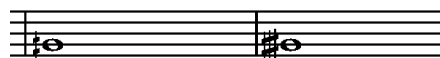
- In the strings, indications such as *s.p.* followed by an arrow pointing to another indication such as *ord.* indicate a gradual change from one timbre to the next.



Abbreviations used in this score are as follows:

s.p. = sul ponticello
s.t. = sul tasto
ord. = ordinario

- Notational convention for microtones is as follows:



¼ tone sharp | ¾ tones sharp

- *Crescendo* and *decrescendo* markings with a small circle at the tip indicate coming from or going to a *niente* (nothing) volume level.



- *Glissandi* should occur over the entire rhythmic duration of the note to which they are attached.

POEMS

Introduction

Barely existent at
Midday,
At sunset and sunrise
I
Am grossest, though no heavier
Than at noon. The sun and I disappear altogether
Together. Usually
You and I play footsies. Now
Surely you remember my name?

Lover with a Half-full Glass

The most minimal
Smile
Of politeness assured my
Heart
Of her heart's equal obsession
With me. When she appeared quite indifferent to me,
I knew
She was just playing hard to get.

Cupidity

Mental agitation—embarrassing
Drift
Toward self-gratification—desire
Not
To desire—tense proclivity to lust.

Invasive Species

The backs of
My
Hands display veins as
Crisscrossed
As the shiny ivy twines
That these very hands, muddy and green-stained, strain
To deracinate.

Death at Sixty (April 28, 1997)

Her little body
Still
Here though containing no
Soul
Housed a spongy brain that
Had for months displayed no outward evidence of mentality
And today
Lost its value even for triggering
Electric impulses necessary for breath.

