

# FOREWORD

Tiānshū is the name of an art installation in the form of a book by artist Xu Bing filled with meaningless glyphs in the style of traditional Chinese characters. The term tiān shū, which can be translated to mean “divine writing,” originally referred to religious texts but is now used to mean “gibberish.” A possible alternative title could be “Nonsense Writing.”

(G.R.E.)

# PERFORMANCE NOTES

Score is transposed.

Microtones:

$-\frac{1}{1} \ -\frac{7}{8} \ -\frac{3}{4} \ -\frac{5}{8} \ -\frac{1}{2} \ -\frac{3}{8} \ -\frac{1}{3} \ -\frac{1}{4} \ -\frac{1}{6} \ -\frac{1}{8} \ \ \ +\frac{1}{8} \ +\frac{1}{6} \ +\frac{1}{4} \ +\frac{1}{3} \ +\frac{3}{8} \ +\frac{1}{2} \ +\frac{5}{8} \ +\frac{3}{4} \ +\frac{7}{8} \ +\frac{1}{1}$

Accidentals apply only to the pitch which they immediately precede.

# INSTRUMENTATION

Flute

Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon

Horn in F

Trumpet in Bb

Trombone

Tuba

2 Violins

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

c.8'

*Tianshu* is dedicated in admiration and friendship to Trevor Bača, Josiah Wolf Oberholtzer, and Jeffrey Treviño from whom I have learned so much.