

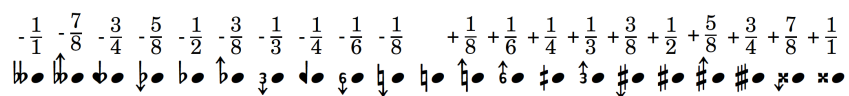
FOREWORD

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, referred to in English as “A Book from the Sky.” 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.” The first title of this installation, and the Chinese subtitle of this piece, can be translated to “Mirror to Analyze the World: The Century’s Final Volume.” I have elected to typeset the Chinese title and subtitle of this piece in traditional Chinese characters rather than simplified characters in the spirit of the traditional nature of Xu Bing’s woodcut printing used in the making of Tiānshū, although it is possible that this is not the correct choice. (G.R.E.)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Score is transposed.

Microtones:



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.