FABERGÉ INVESTIGATIONS

for eight players

(2016)

TREVOR BAČA

PREFACE

Instrumentation:

- Flute (doubling bass flute)
- English horn (also playing ratchet)
- Clarinet in B♭ (doubling bass clarinet)
- Piano
- Percussion
    - crotales (F♯6 & G♮6)
    - mounted castanets
    - bass drum
    - marimba
- Violin
- Viola
- Cello

Accidentals. Accidentals govern only one note. This is true even for successive noteheads at the same staff position. Because of this no natural signs appear in the score. The sequence of, for example, G♯4 followed by G4 (without accidental) is to be understood as G♯4 followed by G♮4.

The winds are tranposed. The bass flute sounds an octave lower than written. The English horn sounds a perfect fifth lower than written. The B♭ clarinet sounds a major second lower than written and the bass clarinet sounds a major ninth lower than written.

Winds. Do not tongue changes of pitch: treat all notes as though they are slurred.

Strings. No scordatura. The instruction **spazzolato** (Italian for "brushed" or "swept") indicates that the bow should be turned slightly to the half col legno tratto position (so that the wood of the bow comes into contact with the string) and then swept alternately up the string (towards the bridge) and back down again (towards the fingers) according to the rhythms specified. The instruction **XFB** ("extremely fast bow") appears in the viola part; the music labeled with this indication should be played as an extremely fast, extremly light, extremely irregular type of tremolo flautando: use very generous amounts of bow (to create extremely fast bow strokes) and change the bow frequently in a constantly irregular rhythm. The aural result of the technique is a "fluorescent" type of flautando that brings out the upper partials of the string's sound, especially as the bow is moved towards the bridge.

The score is a fragment. The complete *Fabergé Investigations* will last about half an hour. The music included (about six minutes) represents only the opening of the piece.

Fabergé Investigations was written for ensemble recherche who are to give the world premiere on 21 May 2016 in Paine Hall on the campus of Harvard University.

FABERGÉ INVESTIGATIONS

for ensemble recherche

Trevor Bača (*1975)

Fabergé Investigations — 2 — Bača

Scores available from the composer at www.trevorbaca.com