

I K R I B U
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for

bass clarinet, violin, viola & cello

(2016)

TREVOR BAČA

PREFACE

Ikribu were the songs sung in Assyria during nightlong vigils held as early as the 25th century BCE. During the course of the vigil participants read events of the future in the organs of animals slit open at the ceremony’s start. Marks visible on the surface of the liver — font of the body’s blood — answered questions of importance to the state. Models of sheeps’ livers excavated from palace compounds record the exact locations of the animals’ organs to be consulted by magicians. What is surprising is not that record of the liver-readers and their clients have come down to us. Nor is it surprising that intimations of the future read on the insides of animals informed the actions of individuals and decisions of the state. What is unexpected, at a remove of more than forty centuries, is that information in the service of statecraft arose to the nighttime accompaniment of song.

Seating positions. The violinst and violist should sit opposite one another across an upturned bass drum placed on a chair between them. The cellist should sit behind the violinist and violist; if a dais is available, the cellist can be seated atop it to better expose the instrument behind the bass drum. The clarinetist should be seated at a slight remove from the other players.

Scordatura. String II of the violin is tuned down a minor third to F \sharp 4; string III of the violin is tuned up a major second to E4. String I of the viola is tuned down a major third to F4; string II of the viola is tuned up a minor second to Eb4. String IV of the cello is tuned down a major ninth to B \flat 0 (an octave below the lowest note on the bass clarinet):

violin: E5, F \sharp 4, E4, G3
viola: F4, Eb4, G3, C3
cello: A3, D3, G2, B \flat 0

Bow contact point tablature. Some of the strings’ music comprises two staves. The top staff is notated in a type of bow contact point (BCP) tablature that specifies which point along the bow is to touch the string at which time. BCPs are given as fractions between 0 and 1 with 0 indicating the talon and 1 indicating the point; intermedial values indicate a BCP somewhere between the two. For example, the BCPs $\frac{0}{4} \longrightarrow \frac{1}{4} \longrightarrow \frac{2}{4}$ indicate that the bow is to be drawn smoothly from the talon ($\frac{0}{4}$) to a point one quarter of the way from the talon ($\frac{1}{4}$) and finally to exactly the midway point of the bow ($\frac{2}{4}$); the BCPs $\frac{6}{7} \longrightarrow \frac{7}{7} \longrightarrow \frac{0}{7}$ indicate that the bow is to be drawn smoothly from a point $\frac{6}{7}$ of the way up the bow up to the point of the bow ($\frac{7}{7}$) and then all the way back down to the talon ($\frac{0}{7}$). This type of tablature allows for the specification of any point along the compass of the bow and any type of travel of the bow between these points. The BCPs used in the piece are all taken from values that divide the bow evenly into four ($\frac{0}{4}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{2}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{4}$) or seven ($\frac{0}{7}, \frac{1}{7}, \frac{2}{7}, \frac{3}{7}, \frac{4}{7}, \frac{5}{7}, \frac{6}{7}, \frac{7}{7}$) parts. The BCPs $\frac{0}{4}$ and $\frac{0}{7}$ are synonyms for the talon; the BCPs $\frac{4}{4}$ and $\frac{7}{7}$ are synonyms for the point. The four parametric windows in the piece notated according to this tablature are all played half col legno tratto; the choice of string contact point (tasto, ponticello and their variations) is left to the preference of the players and should be determined once the sound of the entire piece is familiar. The purpose of the notation is to allow for dramatic changes of bow color: transitions and sudden changes from scratch to extreme flautadando (and back again) are to be encouraged.

Auxilliary instruments. The players should be supplied with the following auxilliary instruments:

clarinet: small stone, slab of slate, large basket filled with lentils
violin: small stone, slab of slate, eight cups filled with barley, bass drum (shared with viola) with brushes
viola: small stone, slab of slate, bass drum (shared with violin) with brushes
cello: small stone, slab of slate, large basket filled with dried beans

Stonescratch. At the end of the piece the cellist is asked to scratch individuated marks across a piece of slate with a smooth stone. This moment is marked “stonescratch” in the score. Follow the timings and loudnesses given in the score.

Stonecircle. At different times in the piece all four players are asked to move a smooth stone in circlces across the surface of a piece of slate. (Flagstone or the like can be used if slate is unavailable.) These moments are marked “stonecircle” in the score. Each player should have their own stone and their own piece of slate; the sound quality of the four pieces of slate should differ slightly from each other. Circles drawn during performance should be about as wide in diameter as the length of each player’s hand. Different rates of circling are given as fractions of π . Do not articulate the start or stop of notes; the sound should be continuous and unaccented throughout: what is important are loudnesses and differing rates of motion.

Grainfall. Eight times during the piece the violinist is requested to pour the contents of a cup of barley to the floor. These moments are numbered with Roman numerals and marked “grainfall” in the score. The action should be performed so that the audience can see the motions that cause the resulting sounds. The eight cups should match each other. Fill the cups before the performance starts and line them up in a row. Each grainfall is a harbinger of investigation: pour with mindfulness and return each empty cup to its place to complete the action. The durations given in the score show when each grainfall begins but the duration of each action should vary according to musical context. A recepticle made of wood or clay should be positioned on stage near the violinist’s feet to catch the barley from each cup as it is poured. The recepticle should be filled with a layer of barley about a knuckle deep before the performance starts so that each pour results in the sound of grain falling on grain; the recepticle can be placed on top of slab of styrofoam to amplify the sound. Another grain may be substituted for barley so long as the grains selected for the clarinetist, violinst and cellist all differ; see below for the clarinet and cello.

Graincircle. At different times in the piece the cellist and the clarinetist are asked to circle their hands in large baskets filled with grain. These moments are marked “graincircle” in the score. The clarinetist’s basket should be filled with lentils; the cellist’s basket should be filled with dried beans; substitutions may be made so long as the grains selected for the clarinetist, violinist and cellist all differ; see above for the violin. The baskets should be made of fiber and be large enough to hold at least five or ten kilograms of grain; baskets may be placed on top of slabs of styrofoam to amplify the sound. Different rates of circling are given as fractions of π . Do not articulate the start or stop of notes; the sound should be continuous and unaccented throughout: what is important are loudnesses and differing rates of motion.

Accidentals. Accidentals govern only one note. Natural signs are inserted to clarify the spelling of different pitches that follow each other at the same staff position.

Transposition. The bass clarinet sounds a major ninth lower than written. The strings sound as written.

Ikribu was written for Distractfold who are to premiere the piece on April 2nd 2016 in Paine Hall on the campus of Harvard University.

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Trevor Bača (*1975)

Ikribu — 2 — Bača

141 $\text{♩} = 58$
 4/4 8/4 L
 Vc. p f p f p f p f p
 graincircle: $\pi/3$ every quarter note graincircle: $\pi/4$ every quarter note

152
 3/4 4/4 3/4 2/4 7/4 8/4 7/4 3/4 2/4
 Vc. f p f p f p f p f p
 graincircle: $\pi/3$ every quarter note graincircle: $\pi/2$ every quarter note

162
 8/4 7/4 4/4 3/4 7/4 8/4 3/4 4/4
 Vc. f p f p f p

171 $\text{♩} = 58$ $\text{♩} = 104$ rit. $\text{♩} = 58$ accel.
 2/4 7/4 3/4 M 2/4 7/4 3/4 4/4
 Vc. fz III mf $8vb$ fff fz III fff $8vb^1$ fff III fff III fff III
 pizz. Δ Δ Δ Δ
 tasto XP tasto XP tasto XP

185 $\text{♩} = 104$ rit. $\text{♩} = 58$ accel. $\text{♩} = 104$ rit.
 3/4 4/4 3/4 2/4 7/4 8/4 7/4 3/4 2/4
 Vc. mf $8vb$ fff fff III mf $8vb$ fff fff III fff $8vb^1$ fff III fff III
 pizz. Δ Δ Δ Δ
 tasto XP tasto XP tasto XP

198 $\text{♩} = 58$
 8/4 7/4 4/4 3/4 7/4 8/4 3/4 4/4
 Vc. mf $8vb$ fff fff Δ

208 $\text{♩} = 104$
 2/4 N 7/4 3/4 4/4 3/4 4/4 3/4 2/4 7/4
 Vc. ff p $f > pp$ pp p ppp ff p p f $pp < p$ p ppp ff p f f pp $p > ppp$
 1/2 clt
 0 4 5 6 7 6 7 0 1 2 1 0 4 5 6 7 6 7 0 7 0 7 0 4 5 6 7 6 7 0 4 1 4 2 4 1 4 0 7 4 7 5 7 6 7 6 7 0 7 7 0 7
 3 9:7 2:3 4:3 4:3 6 2:3 5 8:7 9:7
 15:14 7:6 5 8:7

225

8/4 7/4 3/4 2/4 8/4 7/4

string midpoint string midpoint XP XP

Vc. *p mp p mp p mp*

Sub.

231

4/4 3/4 7/4 8/4 3/4 4/4

string midpoint string midpoint nut

Vc.

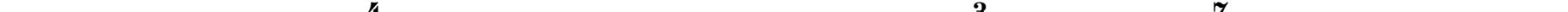
$\flat\bar{\sigma}$ $\flat\bar{\sigma}$ $\flat\bar{\sigma}.$ $\flat\bar{\sigma}..$ $\flat\bar{\sigma}$ $\flat\bar{\sigma}.$ $\flat\bar{\sigma}$

p *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

[illegible]

253

$\frac{7}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{7}{4}$

Vc. 
The musical score for Violoncello (Vc.) is written on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature is 7/4. The first measure contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The second measure contains a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, and a quarter note E5. The third measure contains a quarter note F#5, a quarter note G5, and a quarter note A5. The fourth measure contains a quarter note B5, a quarter note C6, and a quarter note D6. The fifth measure contains a quarter note E6, a quarter note F#6, and a quarter note G6. The sixth measure contains a quarter note A6, a quarter note B6, and a quarter note C7. The seventh measure contains a quarter note D7, a quarter note E7, and a quarter note F#7. The eighth measure contains a quarter note G7, a quarter note A7, and a quarter note B7. The ninth measure contains a quarter note C8, a quarter note D8, and a quarter note E8. The tenth measure contains a quarter note F#8, a quarter note G8, and a quarter note A8. The eleventh measure contains a quarter note B8, a quarter note C9, and a quarter note D9. The twelfth measure contains a quarter note E9, a quarter note F#9, and a quarter note G9. The thirteenth measure contains a quarter note A9, a quarter note B9, and a quarter note C10. The fourteenth measure contains a quarter note D10, a quarter note E10, and a quarter note F#10. The fifteenth measure contains a quarter note G10, a quarter note A10, and a quarter note B10. The sixteenth measure contains a quarter note C11, a quarter note D11, and a quarter note E11. The seventeenth measure contains a quarter note F#11, a quarter note G11, and a quarter note A11. The eighteenth measure contains a quarter note B11, a quarter note C12, and a quarter note D12. The nineteenth measure contains a quarter note E12, a quarter note F#12, and a quarter note G12. The twentieth measure contains a quarter note A12, a quarter note B12, and a quarter note C13. The twenty-first measure contains a quarter note D13, a quarter note E13, and a quarter note F#13. The twenty-second measure contains a quarter note G13, a quarter note A13, and a quarter note B13. The twenty-third measure contains a quarter note C14, a quarter note D14, and a quarter note E14. The twenty-fourth measure contains a quarter note F#14, a quarter note G14, and a quarter note A14. The twenty-fifth measure contains a quarter note B14, a quarter note C15, and a quarter note D15. The twenty-sixth measure contains a quarter note E15, a quarter note F#15, and a quarter note G15. The twenty-seventh measure contains a quarter note A15, a quarter note B15, and a quarter note C16. The twenty-eighth measure contains a quarter note D16, a quarter note E16, and a quarter note F#16. The twenty-ninth measure contains a quarter note G16, a quarter note A16, and a quarter note B16. The thirtieth measure contains a quarter note C17, a quarter note D17, and a quarter note E17. The thirty-first measure contains a quarter note F#17, a quarter note G17, and a quarter note A17. The thirty-second measure contains a quarter note B17, a quarter note C18, and a quarter note D18. The thirty-third measure contains a quarter note E18, a quarter note F#18, and a quarter note G18. The thirty-fourth measure contains a quarter note A18, a quarter note B18, and a quarter note C19. The thirty-fifth measure contains a quarter note D19, a quarter note E19, and a quarter note F#19. The thirty-sixth measure contains a quarter note G19, a quarter note A19, and a quarter note B19. The thirty-seventh measure contains a quarter note C20, a quarter note D20, and a quarter note E20. The thirty-eighth measure contains a quarter note F#20, a quarter note G20, and a quarter note A20. The thirty-ninth measure contains a quarter note B20, a quarter note C21, and a quarter note D21. The fortieth measure contains a quarter note E21, a quarter note F#21, and a quarter note G21. The forty-first measure contains a quarter note A21, a quarter note B21, and a quarter note C22. The forty-second measure contains a quarter note D22, a quarter note E22, and a quarter note F#22. The forty-third measure contains a quarter note G22, a quarter note A22, and a quarter note B22. The forty-fourth measure contains a quarter note C23, a quarter note D23, and a quarter note E23. The forty-fifth measure contains a quarter note F#23, a quarter note G23, and a quarter note A23. The forty-sixth measure contains a quarter note B23, a quarter note C24, and a quarter note D24. The forty-seventh measure contains a quarter note E24, a quarter note F#24, and a quarter note G24. The forty-eighth measure contains a quarter note A24, a quarter note B24, and a quarter note C25. The forty-ninth measure contains a quarter note D25, a quarter note E25, and a quarter note F#25. The fiftieth measure contains a quarter note G25, a quarter note A25, and a quarter note B25. The fifty-first measure contains a quarter note C26, a quarter note D26, and a quarter note E26. The fifty-second measure contains a quarter note F#26, a quarter note G26, and a quarter note A26. The fifty-third measure contains a quarter note B26, a quarter note C27, and a quarter note D27. The fifty-fourth measure contains a quarter note E27, a quarter note F#27, and a quarter note G27. The fifty-fifth measure contains a quarter note A27, a quarter note B27, and a quarter note C28. The fifty-sixth measure contains a quarter note D28, a quarter note E28, and a quarter note F#28. The fifty-seventh measure contains a quarter note G28, a quarter note A28, and a quarter note B28. The fifty-eighth measure contains a quarter note C29, a quarter note D29, and a quarter note E29. The fifty-ninth measure contains a quarter note F#29, a quarter note G29, and a quarter note A29. The sixtieth measure contains a quarter note B29, a quarter note C30, and a quarter note D30. The sixty-first measure contains a quarter note E30, a quarter note F#30, and a quarter note G30. The sixty-second measure contains a quarter note A30, a quarter note B30, and a quarter note C31. The sixty-third measure contains a quarter note D31, a quarter note E31, and a quarter note F#31. The sixty-fourth measure contains a quarter note G31, a quarter note A31, and a quarter note B31. The sixty-fifth measure contains a quarter note C32, a quarter note D32, and a quarter note E32. The sixty-sixth measure contains a quarter note F#32, a quarter note G32, and a quarter note A32. The sixty-seventh measure contains a quarter note B32, a quarter note C33, and a quarter note D33. The sixty-eighth measure contains a quarter note E33, a quarter note F#33, and a quarter note G33. The sixty-ninth measure contains a quarter note A33, a quarter note B33, and a quarter note C34. The seventieth measure contains a quarter note D34, a quarter note E34, and a quarter note F#34. The seventy-first measure contains a quarter note G34, a quarter note A34, and a quarter note B34. The seventy-second measure contains a quarter note C35, a quarter note D35, and a quarter note E35. The seventy-third measure contains a quarter note F#35, a quarter note G35, and a quarter note A35. The seventy-fourth measure contains a quarter note B35, a quarter note C36, and a quarter note D36. The seventy-fifth measure contains a quarter note E36, a quarter note F#36, and a quarter note G36. The seventy-sixth measure contains a quarter note A36, a quarter note B36, and a quarter note C37. The seventy-seventh measure contains a quarter note D37, a quarter note E37, and a quarter note F#37. The seventy-eighth measure contains a quarter note G37, a quarter note A37, and a quarter note B37. The seventy-ninth measure contains a quarter note C38, a quarter note D38, and a quarter note E38. The eightieth measure contains a quarter note F#38, a quarter note G38, and a quarter note A38. The eighty-first measure contains a quarter note B38, a quarter note C39, and a quarter note D39. The eighty-second measure contains a quarter note E39, a quarter note F#39, and a quarter note G39. The eighty-third measure contains a quarter note A39, a quarter note B39, and a quarter note C40. The eighty-fourth measure contains a quarter note D40, a quarter note E40, and a quarter note F#40. The eighty-fifth measure contains a quarter note G40, a quarter note A40, and a quarter note B40. The eighty-sixth measure contains a quarter note C41, a quarter note D41, and a quarter note E41. The eighty-seventh measure contains a quarter note F#41, a quarter note G41, and a quarter note A41. The eighty-eighth measure contains a quarter note B41, a quarter note C42, and a quarter note D42. The eighty-ninth measure contains a quarter note E42, a quarter note F#42, and a quarter note G42. The ninetieth measure contains a quarter note A42, a quarter note B42, and a quarter note C43. The hundredth measure contains a quarter note D43, a quarter note E43, and a quarter note F#43. The hundred and first measure contains a quarter note G43, a quarter note A43, and a quarter note B43. The hundred and second measure contains a quarter note C44, a quarter note D44, and a quarter note E44. The hundred and third measure contains a quarter note F#44, a quarter note G44, and a quarter note A44. The hundred and fourth measure contains a quarter note B44, a quarter note C45, and a quarter note D45. The hundred and fifth measure contains a quarter note E45, a quarter note F#45, and a quarter note G45. The hundred and sixth measure contains a quarter note A45, a quarter note B45, and a quarter note C46. The hundred and seventh measure contains a quarter note D46, a quarter note E46, and a quarter note F#46. The hundred and eighth measure contains a quarter note G46, a quarter note A46, and a quarter note B46. The hundred and ninth measure contains a quarter note C47, a quarter note D47, and a quarter note E47. The hundred and tenth measure contains a quarter note F#47, a quarter note G47, and a quarter note A47. The hundred and eleventh measure contains a quarter note B47, a quarter note C48, and a quarter note D48. The hundred and twelfth measure contains a quarter note E48, a quarter note F#48, and a quarter note G48. The hundred and thirteenth measure contains a quarter note A48, a quarter note B48, and a quarter note C49. The hundred and fourteenth measure contains a quarter note D49, a quarter note E49, and a quarter note F#49. The hundred and fifteenth measure contains a quarter note G49, a quarter note A49, and a quarter note B49. The hundred and sixteenth measure contains a quarter note C50, a quarter note D50, and a quarter note E50. The hundred and seventeenth measure contains a quarter note F#50, a quarter note G50, and a quarter note A50. The hundred and eighteenth measure contains a quarter note B50, a quarter note C51, and a quarter note D51. The hundred and nineteenth measure contains a quarter note E51, a quarter note F#51, and a quarter note G51. The hundred and twentieth measure contains a quarter note A51, a quarter note B51, and a quarter note C52. The hundred and twenty-first measure contains a quarter note D52, a quarter note E52, and a quarter note F#52. The hundred and twenty-second measure contains a quarter note G52, a quarter note A52, and a quarter note B52. The hundred and twenty-third measure contains a quarter note C53, a quarter note D53, and a quarter note E53. The hundred and twenty-fourth measure contains a quarter note F#53, a quarter note G53, and a quarter note A53. The hundred and twenty-fifth measure contains a quarter note B53, a quarter note C54, and a quarter note D54. The hundred and twenty-sixth measure contains a quarter note E54, a quarter note F#54, and a quarter note G54. The hundred and twenty-seventh measure contains a quarter note A54, a quarter note B54, and a quarter note C55. The hundred and twenty-eighth measure contains a quarter note D55, a quarter note E55, and a quarter note F#55. The hundred and twenty-ninth measure contains a quarter note G55, a quarter note A55, and a quarter note B55. The hundred and thirtieth measure contains a quarter note C56, a quarter note D56, and a quarter note E56. The hundred and thirty-first measure contains a quarter note F#56, a quarter note G56, and a quarter note A56. The hundred and thirty-second measure contains a quarter note B56, a quarter note C57, and a quarter note D57. The hundred and thirty-third measure contains a quarter note E57, a quarter note F#57, and a quarter note G57. The hundred and thirty-fourth measure contains a quarter note A57, a quarter note B57, and a quarter note C58. The hundred and thirty-fifth measure contains a quarter note D58, a quarter note E58, and a quarter note F#58. The hundred and thirty-sixth measure contains a quarter note G58, a quarter note A58, and a quarter note B58. The hundred and thirty-seventh measure contains a quarter note C59, a quarter note D59, and a quarter note E59. The hundred and thirty-eighth measure contains a quarter note F#59, a quarter note G59, and a quarter note A59. The hundred and thirty-ninth measure contains a quarter note B59, a quarter note C60, and a quarter note D60. The hundred and fortieth measure contains a quarter note E60, a quarter note F#60, and a quarter note G60. The hundred and forty-first measure contains a quarter note A60, a quarter note B60, and a quarter note C61. The hundred and forty-second measure contains a quarter note D61, a quarter note E61, and a quarter note F#61. The hundred and forty-third measure contains a quarter note G61, a quarter note A61, and a quarter note B61. The hundred and forty-fourth measure contains a quarter note C62, a quarter note D62, and a quarter note E62. The hundred and forty-fifth measure contains a quarter note F#62, a quarter note G62, and a quarter note A62. The hundred and forty-sixth measure contains a quarter note B62, a quarter note C63, and a quarter note D63. The hundred and forty-seventh measure contains a quarter note E63, a quarter note F#63, and a quarter note G63. The hundred and forty-eighth measure contains a quarter note A63, a quarter note B63, and a quarter note C64. The hundred and forty-ninth measure contains a quarter note D64, a quarter note E64,

