## Phrase Codex

Transcribed and Compiled by Miguel Atwood-Ferguson

'C' Instruments

Version 10.0

Hello!

I am extremely excited to share with you a collection still in development, that I am calling 'The Phrase Codex'. I first started compiling this document in 2013 for myself and my string quartet as a way for us to develop our intonation, ear recognition, and overall harmonic/melodic vernacular. Since then, I have been adding a phrase or two on a weekly basis, and plan to continue to do so for sometime.

While the implications of this book are wide and potentially far reaching, the way I personally use this book, is by taking a phrase or two each day and putting them through all keys while using the metronome at varying tempos. This has been a very fun/joyous/magical experience for me, and has further strengthened a sense of endless discovery in my life. Connecting with the glorious musicians here via some of their phrases, has been an endless joy, and a very profound experience for me that has added to the amount of appreciation and dignity that I feel in relation to the joy and responsibility of being a musician interested in creating a more peaceful, well balanced, and loving world. I picked many of the phrases contained therein not only because of how awe inspiring they are as is, but also specifically because of the immense beauty of the new shapes and colors that I felt develop in taking them through every key either chromatically, by whole steps, or any other intervals or patterns imaginable. I have purposefully left out any indication of the harmony that these phrases were played over for numerous reasons. The main reason however, is that I have found it most useful to experiment with these phrases within numerous harmonic contexts without any preconceived notions. With each exploration, the intrinsic beauty and identity of each phrase reveals itself all the more. Some of the phrases in The Phrase Codex were actually first written or played by musicians that came before those that I transcribed and compiled here. I simply attributed each phrase to whomever I was listening to when documenting (they might not have been the first to utter that particular phrase).

There are many varying views and approaches to transcribing and what may or may not be the best way to apply all parts of the process. I think there are great advantages to all of the varying perspectives I personally have heard. I suggest doing your own research and experimenting with what you feel may be best for you.

The basis of my philosophy behind this document has been that I feel that we each as human beings, have our own intrinsic infinite potential genius, beauty, unique wisdom and perspective. This document is simply one way to further get in touch with our own infinite universe within and around ourselves. I am a recording and performing musician, and personally hope to never overtly play any of these phrases on record or in performance. If any do come out unconsciously, that is totally fine with me, but the point of me personally practicing these, has simply just been a fun way for me to learn and connect with my instruments, develop my ear, and create ease of expression. I personally am most interested in developing my own unique vernacular and language. This document has been a very fun tool that has already helped me greatly get in touch with my own voice of expression and infinite wonder. I am also composing and compiling a separate document filled with only original phrases by myself, of which I will be sharing sometime later this decade possibly.

I will be uploading an ever evolving updated 'Phrase Codex' roughly twice a year and will make it available for free in case any of you find it helpful for yourselves or your students. I will continue to revise and add to it for hopefully many years.

Wishing you overflowing good health, happiness, and success in all of your endeavors!

Miguel Atwood-Ferguson

## PHRASE CODEX

MIGUEL ATWOOD-FERGUSON

3/11/17









## Béla Bartók































































































































































































































































