

James Gardner

# **some other plots for Babel**

for ensemble

(1999-2000)

## Instrumentation

Flute (piccolo, alto flute)

E♭ Clarinet (A clarinet, bass clarinet)

Bass clarinet

Horn

Bass trombone

Percussion: (1 player)

**Friction Drum /lion's roar** as large and loud as possible

**Vibraphone** (motor off throughout, and played with mallets and bow)

**Low -pitched tom-tom** (or small bass drum)

**Bass drum** (very resonant)

**Percussion cluster** comprising three metal instruments, three wood and four small drums. The specific instruments should be chosen by the player, but should be small enough to allow them to be arranged in a tight cluster. While each class of instrument should encompass clearly audible differences between the highest and lowest instruments, and allow the production of the full range of notated dynamics, timbral homogeneity within each class is by no means necessary.

**Piccolo snare drum** ("off stage")

Violin 1

Violin 2

Cello

Double Bass

## Performance Notes

### Tempo

The tempo indications are to be understood as indicating ideal tempi, but may be modified to suit the acoustics of the performing space. Tempo relationships between metrically related sections are, however, to be strictly maintained. This is particularly important in the second part of the piece.

### Rhythmic interpretation

Unless otherwise indicated, or implied by the verbal ‘character’ instructions, the piece is to be played without rubato and every effort should be made to realise the rhythms as accurately as possible. Within this general directive, however, some priorities may be stated: The often simple rhythmic relationships within a long individualistic ‘irrational’ group (e.g. clarinet Part 1 m.63) should be played as accurately as possible even at the expense of a slightly inaccurate ‘sub-tempo’. Longer melodic lines consisting of various multiples of a constant sub-pulse (e.g. cello Part 1 mm 66-8) should be played as such, and not thought of as a series of jerky syncopations from the main (crotchet) pulse. All rhythmic unisons should be as tight and accurate as possible.

*Microtones:* ♯ = a quarter-tone sharp    ♯ = three quarter-tones sharp    ♫ = a quarter-tone flat    ♫ = three quarter-tones flat

Upward and downward arrows attached to accidentals indicate inflections of approximately an eighth-tone sharp or flat according to direction.

*Glissandi*, unless otherwise indicated, start immediately, and are even and continuous. Unless otherwise specified, neither “departure” nor “destination” pitch is to be accented.

*Grace notes* are to be played as fast as possible, and are always slurred into the main note unless otherwise specified.

Where a grace note group is tied to a parenthetical main note (e.g. Part 1 bass clarinet m.102, A clarinet m. 104) played the group as fast as possible and return immediately to the main note.

All *trills* and *mordents*, to be executed as rapidly as possible, are to the adjacent semitone unless otherwise specified.

Where two (or more) parenthetical trill notes are shown, (e.g. violin 2, Part 1 m.37) they should be played in alternation, separated by a return to the main note, e.g. ABACAB etc. where A is the main pitch.

Horizontal arrows between modes of playing indicate smooth transitions from one state to another.

*Winds and Horn:* Unless otherwise indicated, and as far as practically possible, all microtones are to be produced by fingerings.

\* = timbral trill. Where possible a fingering should be chosen which provides the greatest timbral contrast, even at the expense of slight pitch deviation.

Numbers in circles denote timbrally distinct fingerings on a given pitch. ① is the normal fingering and the higher numbers denote increasing degrees of timbral distortion. Wherever possible, fingerings should be chosen to *maximise* these timbral differences, even at the expense of pitch accuracy .

✗ = slap tongue (a very hard staccatissimo may be substituted)

◆ = slightly diffuse and breathy tone

◊ = very breathy tone with faintly audible pitch content

*Horn:* In rapid passages, fingerings using uncorrected seventh, eleventh or thirteenth partials should be used where “quarter tones” are notated, while a combination of these fingerings with right hand “shading” should be employed to produce equal-tempered quarter tones in slower material.

*Percussion:*

**Friction Drum /lion's roar** as large and loud as possible

**Vibraphone** (motor off throughout, and played with mallets and bow)

**Low -pitched tom-tom** (or small bass drum)

**Bass drum** (very resonant)

**Percussion cluster** comprising three metal instruments, three wood and four small drums. The specific instruments should be chosen by the player, but should be small enough to allow them to be arranged in a tight cluster. While each class of instrument should encompass clearly audible differences between the highest and lowest instruments, and allow the production of the full range of notated dynamics, timbral homogeneity within each class is by no means necessary.

**Piccolo snare drum** ("off stage")

*Strings:*

Unless otherwise specified, a conventional shallow vibrato is assumed on sustained pitches.

*c.l.b.* = col legno battuto

*c.l.t.* = col legno tratto (no hair)

*1/2 c.l.t.* = 1/2 col legno tratto (turn bow so that hair and wood touch string)

a return to normal bowing is indicated by *norm.*

*msp* = molto sul ponticello (i.e. as close to the bridge as possible)

*sp* = sul ponticello

*psp* = poco sul ponticello (but audibly distinct from nat.)

*nat.* = normal bowing position

*pst* = poco sul tasto (but audibly distinct from nat.)

*st* = sul tasto

*mst* = molto sul tasto (i.e. as close to the middle of the sounding string length as possible)

\* = trill to smallest possible interval above main note

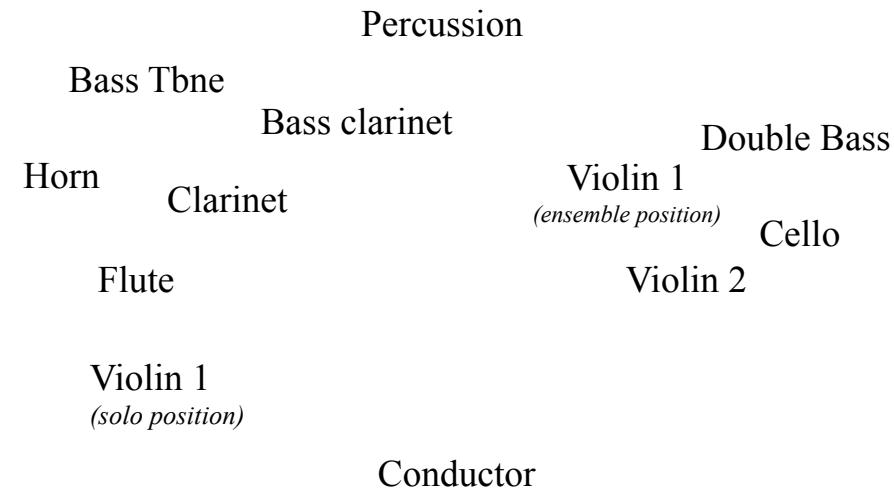
**The score is notated at sounding pitch.**

Duration c. 16' 30"

*some other plots for Babel* was commissioned by Mark Menzies with funds provided by Creative New Zealand.

It was first performed by him and the ensemble 175 East conducted by Hamish McKeich on August 6, 2000 at Hopetoun Alpha, Auckland, New Zealand.

## Suggested stage layout



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**Measure 68-72**

*senza vib.*

Alto Flute: *pp*, *f poss.*, *3*

E♭ Clarinet: *n*, *mf*, *pp*, *5*, *5*, *10:6*

Bass Clarinet: *n*, *mf*, *p*, *ff*, *sfz*, *pp*, *mf*, *9:8*

Horn: *ppp poss.*, *mf*, *12:7*

Bass Trombone: *ppp poss.*, *f*, *mf*, *ff*

Percussion: **Friction Drum**: *n*, *ff poss.* **Vibes**: *arco*, *nat.*, *II:8*

Violin 1: *con sord. sul tasto*, *7*, *n*, *f*, *nat.*, *senza vib.*, *3*, *3*, *psp*, *nat.*, *II:8*

Violin 2: *con sord. sul pont. senza vib.*, *3*, *n*, *p*, *f*, *nat.*, *sp*

Cello: *con sord. senza vib. sul G*, *n*, *f*, *p*, *7*, *fff*

Double Bass: *sul G pizz.*, *mf*, *mp*, *ff*, *f*, *fff*, *arco*

4

AFl. *f poss.*

Eb Cl. *n*

BCL. *n* *sfz* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *mf* *pp* *p* *n* *pp* *f*

Hn. *p* *f* *ppp* *mf* *p* *mf*

B Tbne. *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *ppp* *mf*

Perc. *<f* *l.v.*

Vln. 1 *vib. ord.* *5* *9:8* *ppp* *sub. p* *ff* *remove mute*

Vln. 2 *nat.* *pst* *nat.* *5* *9:8* *5* *p* *ff* *p* *fff* *remove mute*

Vc. *senza sord.* *4:3* *5* *pp* *f* *p f* *fff*

Cb. *mf* *ff* *p* *fff* *f* *fff* *p* *mfz*

medium/hard mallets

*mst flautando* *senza sord.* *pp* *senza sord.* *mst flautando* *pp*

*pst* *nat.* *psp* *pp* *f* *p* *pp* *f* *p* *mfz*

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 7, measures 1-4. The score includes parts for AFL, Eb Cl., BCL, Hn., B Tbne., Perc., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vc., and Cb. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, dynamic markings like *p*, *mf*, *f*, and *ff*, and performance instructions such as *poss.*, *sub*, *tr*, *l.v.*, *nat.*, *vib. ord.*, *flautando*, *st*, *sp*, and *molto!*. Measure 1 starts with *AFL* at *p* and *ff*. Measure 2 begins with *Eb Cl.* at *p* and *ff*. Measure 3 starts with *BCL* at *p* and *mf*. Measure 4 starts with *Hn.* at *p* and *mf*.

10

AFl. *poss.* *f* *sub p*

E♭ Cl. *poss.* *f* *sub p*

BCl. *ff* *mf* *f* *n pp*

Hn. *sffz* *p* *f* *n ppp poss.*

B Tbne. *ff* *mf* *ff* *ppp poss.* *f* *p* (match alto flute)

Perc. *mf* *Vibes* *con sord.* *3* *psp* *7* *msp* *nat.* *7:6* *psp*

Vln. 1 *n* *sffz* *ppp* *f* *p* *ff* *ppp* *sffz*

Vln. 2 *fff* *sffz* *ppp* *f* *p* *f* *sub pp* *f*

Vc. *nat.* *senza vib.* *mf* *f* *p*

Cb. *<fff* *mp* *ff* *pizz.* *f poss. mf*

13

AFl. *f poss.* *sffz* *mf* *sffz* *mf* *f poss.* *mf*

E♭ Cl. *ff* *ppp* *mp* *p* *mf*

BCl. *sffz* *p* *mf* *pp* *mp* *ppp* *mf* *pp* *mf*

Hn. *mf* *pp* *p* *mf* *pp*

B Tbn. *mf* *pp* *mp* *f*

Perc. *poco ped.* *mf* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*

Vln. 1 *>p* *mf* *p* *sfp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. 2 *psp* *st* *savage nat.* *(sul G)* *ff* *p* *sffzpp* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

Vc. *p* *mf* *f* *p* *mp* *mf* *pp* *psp* *nat.*

Cb. *arco* *sfp* *mf* *jff*

A

15

AFl. *f* *mp* *f*  
poss.

E♭ Cl. *p* *mp* *pp* *sfp* *mf* *f*

B

E♭ Cl. *7:6* *3* *7*  
*sfz* *p* *mf* *f*

B♭ Cl. *7:5* *5* *3*  
*pp* *sfp* *mf* *f* *ff* *ppp*

Hn. *12:7* *3*  
*mf* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *pp*

(trigger trill)  
10:7

B Tbne. *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *sfp*

Perc. *mf* *2/2* *Ado.* *Ado.* *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. 1 *st* *7* *nat.* *3* *senza vib.* *n* *pp* *psp* *nat.* *II:8* *5* *9:8*

Vln. 2 *pp* *mf* *sfp* *mf* *sub* *fff* *p* *mf*

Vc. *sub* *molto vib.* *9:8* *p* *sfp* *p* *f* *mf* *f* *pizz.* *arco*

Cb. *ff* *p* *sfp* *fff* *ff* *f* *sfp* *sfp* *ff*



**B**

20

AFl. *n* *f* *mp poss.* 8:7

Eb Cl. *pp* *mp* *ppp* *pp* *f* *p* *mf* ① ② 7:5 ① ②

BCI. *pp* *sfpzpp* *f sub pp* *f* *mp* *ff* *mf* *pp*

Hn. *pp sub* *f* *pp* 5:3 *mf* *mp* *ff* *ppp* 5

B Tbne. *pp sub* *f* *ppp* *mf* *p* *f* *pp* *mp poss.* *mf* 5

Perc. *arco* *f* *nat. mechanical* 4:3 4:3 7:6 13:12 *medium/hard mallets* 5 *mf* *ff*

Vln. 1 *mf* 4:3 4:3 7:6 13:12

Vln. 2 *msp* *p* *ff* *st* *msp* *st* *pp* *mf* *sp* *(nat.)*

Vc. *psp sul G* *sul C* *sul G* *st* *sp* *nat. (gliss. trill note only)* *psp* *nat.* *ff* *mf* *f* *p* *sp* *(nat.)*

Cb. *pizz. sul G* *arco msp* *nat.* *sp* *nat. (gliss. trill note only)* *psp* *nat.* *ff* *mf* *pp sfpzpp* *f* *pp sfpzpp* *mf*

23

AFI      E♭ Cl      BCl      Hn      B Tbn      Perc

*n* poss.      *pp*      *f*      *v*      *ff*

*ppp*      *f*      *mp*      *pppp*

*mf* > *p*      *pp*      *mf* > *pp*      *f*      *fff*      *pp* < *mf*

*mf* > *p*      *pp*      *mp* (match alto flute)

*p*      *mp* > *pp*      *pp*      *mf* > *p*      *sub*      *f*      *mp* > *pp*

*msp*      *nat.*

*n*      *p*      *mf*      *f*      *pp*      *ff*      *sffzpp*      *sffzp*      *7:6*      *sffz*      *p*

*nat.*      *sp*      *nat.*

*mf* > *f* > *p*      *f*      *mf*      *sffzpp*      *sffzp*      *f*      *sub*      *p*

*sp*      *nat.*

*> p*      *f*      *sffzp*      *f*      *p*      *pp*      *sffzpp*      *mf*      *sffzp*      *ppp*      *mfzp*

13:12      13:12      13:12

Vln. 1      Vln. 2      Vc      Cb

*ff*      *ffff*      *ffff*      *ffff*

10

26

AFl. 3 p poss. *tr.* 3

E♭ Cl. 3 f lip gliss. 3 n

BCl. 3 p f 3 mfp 3 mp pp ff 3 p sub 3 n

Hn. + o 3 f ppp 3 mf cantabile 3 pp 3 p

B Tbn. 3 mfp poss. 3 mp p 3 mf ppp 3 f

Perc. 3 p vib. ord. 3 pp 3 mf

Vln. 1 13:12 alla punta 3 sp 3 psp 3 nat. 3 p 3 mf

Vln. 2 3 sub pp 3 mp 3 p sfp 3 pp 3 mf 3 n

Vc. 3 f 3 p 3 f 3 sub p 3 mf 3 p 3 f 3 sub p 3 mf

Cb. 3 mf 3 pp sub fff 3 mf 3 pp 3 mf 3 (b.) pp 3 ffff

C

II

rall.

29

AFI      tr. v. 5 f poss. f p f sub p

E Cl.      7 mf fff mp poss.

BCI      5 p sffz f p pp

Hn      3 5 5 5 mf p pp

B Tbne      5 pp f p mf pp

Perc      hardest mallets p f mf medium/hard mallets p *Reo.*

Vln. 1      3 p mf p p pp

Vln. 2      msp psp nat. p mf p pp fff

Vc      3 pp fff pizz. quasi cadenza f p ff

Cb      (sul G) pizz. sul E arco f n f

**32**      *winds and horn as evenly balanced as possible*  
**c.56**

**AFl.** *< f poss.*      *p — f — p f poss.*      *mf — p*      *f — mf*      *5:3*  
**E♭ Cl.**      *mf — p — f — p — mf — p — mf*  
**BCl.**      *mf — p — f — p — mf — p — mf*      *p — mf — pp*      *mf — pp — 5:3 — 5*  
**Hn.**      *mf — p — f — p — mp — 3 — p — mf — pp*      *f*      *5*  
**B Tbne.**      *< mf — ppp — mf — pp — mf — pp*  
**Perc.**      *pp — mp — 5 — 5 — p — 5 — 3 — 5 — mp — pp — 5 — 3 — 5 — pp*  
**Vln. 1**      *mf — mp — ff — mp — f — p — mf — 10:8 — p — ppp — mf — 5 — 5 — 3 — (nat.)*  
*0*      *pst — 3 — 6 — florid — "rococo" legatissimo sempre*  
**Vln. 2**      *mf — mp — ff — mp — f — p — mf — sp — 5:4 — msp — (nat.)*  
*pst — 3 — 5 — florid — "rococo" legatissimo sempre*  
**Vc.**      *ffff — pp — f — p < f — p — p — psp — (nat.)*  
*sul A arco pizz. +*  
*pst — nat. — sp — 5 — 3 — sub — f — p — mf — p sub — mf — sp — (nat.)*  
**Cb.**      *mp — arco — pizz. + — sfzpp — f — pp*

**12**

35

AFl. *b* 5 *mp* *f* *p* *f poss.*

E♭ Cl. 3 5 *p* *f* *p* *mp* *p* *mf* (match alto flute)

BCI. 5 *f* *p* *f* *sub p* *ppp* *mf* *f* *p* *pp* *f*

Hn. 5 *p* *f* *p* *p* *mf* *pp*

B Tbne. 5 *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Perc. *pp* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *st* (nat.)

Vln. 1 3 5 *ppp* *mf* *pp* *sffzpp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *sfsz* *p* *mf* *p* *sfsz* *p* *ff* *p*

Vln. 2 5 *pp* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *sp* (nat.) *p* *mf* *sfszpp* *mf* *sp* (sul G) *mf* *sfszpp*

Vc. 5 *fff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *pp* *sp* *psp* *3* *5* *p* *ff* *f* *p* *mp* *sp* (sul D) *ff* *mp*

Cb. 5 *ff* *mf* *ff* *sim.* *5:4* *ff* *p* *ff* *sp* (bow pressure accents) *msp* *nat.* *ff* *sfszpp* *f*

**AFl.** 37 *tr.* 3 3 *p* *f poss.* *sfp* *f poss.* *pp* *mf*  
**E♭ Cl.** 3 3 *p* *mf* *pp* *f* *n* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *mf* *f*  
**BCl.** II:8 3 3 *pp* *f* *pp* *sfp* *f* *pp* *mp* *ppp*  
**Hn.** 3 3 *mf* *n* *pp* *mf*  
**B Tbne.** 5 5 *mf* *p* *pp* *mf*  
**Perc.** 3 *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mp*  
**Vln. 1** *nat.* *sfp* *mf* *sfp* *p* *mfz* *p* *sfp* *ppp* *ff*  
**Vln. 2** 5 *msp* *nat.* *pp* *gliss. trill notes only* *f* *p* *n*  
**Vc.** *nat.* *(sul D)* *f* *mf* *sfp* *p* *ff* *sub p* *3* *f* *p* *sfp* *mf*  
**Cb.** *tr.* 3 3 *p* *mf* *sub sfp* *3* *mf* *pp* *sfp* *f* *pp*

39

AFL. *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *f*  
poss.

E♭ Cl. *pp* *mf* *p* *pp* *mp* *sub ff*

BCL. *mf* *sub pp*

Hn. *pp* *mf*

B Tbne. *ppp* *mf* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*

Perc. *pp* *f* *mf* *pp* *mp*

Vln. 1 *mf* *pp* *sffz* *p* *ff* *nat.* *pp* *sffz p* *mf* *fff* *sub p* *mf* *ff* *sul G & D* *mst* *sul D*

Vln. 2 *fff*

Vc. *sffz* *p* *mf* *pp* *ff* *sffz pp* *nat.* *poco vib.* *pizz.* *mf* *pp* *pp* *p* *mf* *arco nat.*

Cb. *mf* *p* *mf* *f* *mf* *p* *mst* *p*

**D** ♩ = c.66

42

10

AFl. *ff* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mp* *f poss.* *p*

E♭ Cl. *pp* *f sub* *ppp* *mfz p* *mf* *pp* *f sub* *ppp* *mfz p*

BCl. *ff* *pp* *p* *n* *mf* *ppp*

Hn. *pp* *mp* *pp* *ppp* *f* *mp* (match alto flute)

B Tbne. *ppp poss.* *p*

Perc. *poco ped. ad lib.* *mp* *p pp* *p* *pp* *mp* *x<sub>20</sub>*

Vln. 1 *pp* *pp* *mp*

Vln. 2 *sul G & D* *sul D* *senza vib.* *nat.* *pp* *sub* *pp* *pp* *mp*

Vc. *sffz ppp* *mp* *pp* *pp* *sffz ppp* *pp* *pp* *mp* *sub* *pp* *pp* *mp*

Cb. *sffz* *pp* *ff* *pp* *sffz ppp* *pp* *pp* *f* *pp* *f sub* *pp*

45

AFI

*ff* *p* *ff* *p* *f* *mp* *ff* *mf* *p* *f* *mf* *p* *f*

E♭ Cl

*ppp* *mp* *n* *n* *pp* *f*

BCL

*mp* *n* *n* *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Hn

*pp* *mp* *n*

take mute

B Tbne

*ppp* *p* *n*

Perc

*l.v.* *p* *soft mallets* *ppp poss.*

Vln. 1

*senza vib.* *msp* *nat.* *7:6* *ppp* *psp* *(nat.)*

Vln. 2

*senza vib.* *msp* *nat.* *con sord.* *msp*

Vc

*vib. ord.* *senza vib.* *msp* *nat.* *sul D* *pizz.* *sub* *ff* *sul A* *arco* *con sord.* *sul A* *ppp*

Cb

*mf* *mp* *fff* *ppp* *< p* *ppp* *pp* *pp* *n*

49

AFl. *mf* *p* *f*

Eb Cl. *pp* *p* *ppp* *<sfz* *p* *ppp* *sfp* *p* *ppp*

BCI. *vib.* *p* *mp* *p* *ff* *n* *p* *pp*

Hn. *con sord.* *pp* *cresc. poco a poco* *5* *5* *3* *3* *mf*

B Tbne. *p* *ppp* *mfzpp* *n*

Perc. *mf* *p* *psp* *vib. ord.* *nat.* *psp* *nat.* *psp* *9:8* *5*

Vln. 1 *pp* *mp* *ppp* *sfzp* *sul G* *nat.* *pst* *vib. ord.* *5* *1* *senza vib.* *mst* *poco vib.* *pst* *vib. ord.* *nat.*

Vln. 2 *p* *mf* *p* *ff* *5* *vib. ord.* *5* *3* *n* *p* *ppp*

Vc. *poco vib.* *5* *mp* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *vib. ord.*

Cb. *cantabile* *nat.* *5* *msp* *5* *nat.* *sp* *5* *nat.*



