

*Marc Sabat*

*for solo voice (1997)*

PLAINSOUND MUSIC EDITION

## NOTES:

The music was written in the spring of 1997 at the invitation of Matteo Fargion, who had asked Beth Griffith to perform some of his own music at the Akademie Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart. I had only recently arrived in Germany, and at the time I was absorbed with learning the sound and structure of a new language. Rather than taking formal courses, I had decided to take in the language by listening to it.

I had just spent an afternoon with violinist Clemens Merkel, translating the performer's instructions for an earlier piece. I began analyzing the German text in an attempt to understand it, separating the phonetic components into lists of consonants and vowels, speaking the unfamiliar sounds. Out of this activity, a series of studies for solo voice began to emerge.

The text itself refers to patterns of numbers occurring in various registers, and as this meaning dissolved in the deconstructed text, it found its way in various forms into the music.

Two versions of the last section (TUNE.) are included, in F and in Eb. The melody, in each case, is made of pitches tuned in just intonation as overtones of a single fundamental pitch. The quarter-tone pitches written in this part are meant to approximate the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> partials of a harmonic series, and the music may be practised with a drone (a perfect fifth F-C or Eb-Bb) to refine the intonation. The first section (AIR.) should be realized at an even, relatively quiet dynamic, with very gradual changes between the indicated sounds. In the second section (SPIT.) the sounds should be as aggressively and percussively realized as possible.

-M.S.

| *sh* | | *sh - s - f* | | *sh - ch - f - s - f - sh - f* | | *h* | | *h* | | ' | |

| *s* | | | *s* | | | *s* | | | *s - f* | | | *h* | | |



34  $\text{♩}^3 = \text{♩}$   $\text{♩} = 132 - 138$

*p sh t k p sh t t p t ts f p ch p k t p t k p sh t t t*

39

*p sh t f p ch t k p f p t ts p t t t p t f t t p sh p f p t*

44

*t t t k ts t t ch ch p p ts ch ch p ch t ch t k t*

49

*p ts ch t p ts t k t t t t k t f p ch k ch t t ch t k t*

53  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

*p ts t t t ts t k k t ts t k t k k t k t k p p t k*

60  $\text{♩} = 88 - 92$

*s sh f s sh ch ch s sh g sh g sh g s s ch*

♩ = 72 ~ 84 (poco rubato)

1

*n - eh - n ü - ö - eh - y - ee - n o - ah*

6

*ee - o - n - ah - oo - ee - eh - n oo v - eh - oo - eh - oo*

11

*n - ah - z ih - eh - ih - ng eh - m -*

16

*ö - o eh - n eh - ee - eh -*

21

*m - ih eh - m - eh - v ah - y - eh -*

25

*ll - ö - o - z eh - ö ih ah - y*



1  $\text{♩} = 72 \sim 84$  (poco rubato)

n - eh - n ü - ö - eh - y - ee - n o - ah

6 ee - o - n - ah - oo - ee - eh - n oo v - eh - oo - eh - oo

11 n - ah - z ih - eh - ih - ng eh - m -

16 ö - o eh - n eh - ee - eh -

21 m - ih eh - m - eh - v ah - y - eh -

25 ll - ö - o - z eh - ö ih ah - y

