

haiku responses

butoh (voice),
(bass) clarinet, portative organ

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haiku responses

butoh (voice), (bass) clarinet (Bflat), portative organ

Eva-Maria Houben / Sanae Kagaya (co-composition)

2025

the old pond (Matsuo Basho)

hums in the lilac (Eva-Maria Houben)

between you and me (Sanae Kagaya)

Für Bernd Bleffert.

Butoh Tanz (auch Stimme), Klarinette / Bassklarinette, Horn, Klavier und Orgel vibrieren im Nachhall eines Haikus. In der Trilogie werden drei solcher Gedichtformen präsentiert. Ein Haiku, das im Nu gesprochen oder gelesen werden kann, stößt das Geschehen an: Alle leben in der Gegenwärtigkeit des Vergangenen. Im Mit- und Nachschwingen wird das Ensemble nicht den Moment eines Haikus darstellen, sondern in zeitlicher Ausdehnung mit den Empfindungen leben, die das Haiku, als nunmehr Vergangenes, ausgelöst hat. Es musiziert im Nachbeben, Nachzittern. Das Musizieren wird zu einer Betrachtung der Gegenwart des Vergangenen, zu einem mutigen Weitergehen in Unbekanntes hinein.

Butoh dance (also voice), clarinet / bass clarinet, horn, piano and organ vibrate in the reverberation of a haiku. Three such forms of poetry are presented in the trilogy. A haiku, which can be spoken or read in an instant, triggers the event: everyone lives in the presence of the past. Resonating, the ensemble will not represent the moment of a haiku but will live in temporal expansion with the sensations that the haiku, as something now past, puts the ensemble into motion. The ensemble plays in the aftershock, trembling. Making music becomes a contemplation of the present of the past, a courageous stepping on forward into an unknown.

the old pond
a frog leaps in
sound of the water

(Matsuo Basho)

hums in the lilac
drunken – dropping on the grass
rains: due to return

(Eva-Maria Houben)

between you and me
dressed in blue
river of summer

(Sanae Kagaya)

the old pond

free tempo. molto rubato.

organ (|| →): cluster. above the system: high cluster; below: low cluster. tenderly moving the bellows, allowing partials to unfold. diamond notes: sounds with a high amount of air.

the solo of the bass clarinet: playing with somnambulistic confidence – listening, dreaming, musing.

hums in the lilac

the prelude of the portative organ: a drone with a high amount of air, accompanying single tones and dyads (high amount of air) in any order. any reading directions, any overlaps. harsh break at the end of the bellows' stream.

page 2: clarinet and portative organ playing simultaneously and independently of one another; taking care of the dancer, supporting the dancer, cautiously, attentively. the arrows mean: any reading directions. clarinet: any order of the given sounds, any omissions, any repetitions, any gestures (slurs are proposals). portative organ: any kind of fluctuating clusters spread over the keyboard. playing with the bellows: all pressures (overblowing as well as tones with a high amount of air). playing on the keyboard: as well with the ball of the hand, as well with the bent fingers of the right hand.

page 3 (portative organ): intensely playing with the bellows while the drone is sounding.

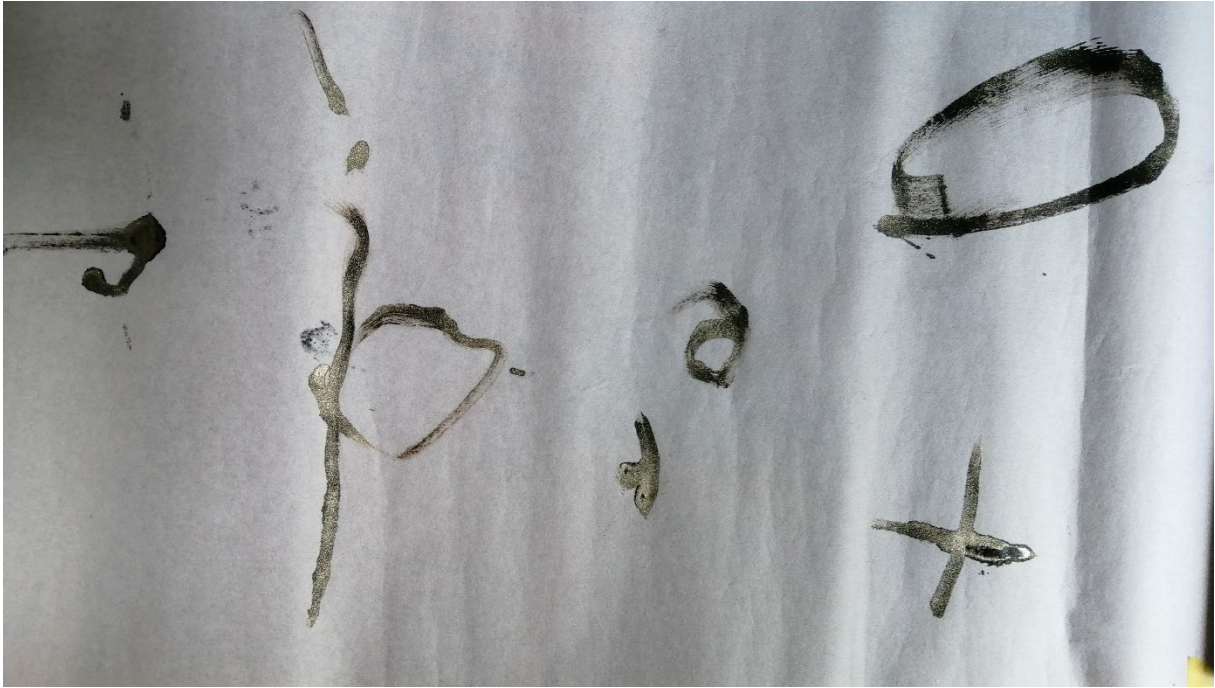
between you and me

bass clarinet solo and portative organ solo: free tempo. molto rubato.

duo clarinet and portative organ: free tempo again. striking each sound in the closest connection with the other player. the sounds of both instruments appear simultaneously, following the calm pulsation of the small melodies and gestures. single tones (in unison) take approximately the same duration as the tones within a melody or a gesture.

page 6 (clarinet): finding a calm and equal pulsation. finding a path into silence.

the old pond



1
the old pond

the old pond
a frog leaps in
sound of the water

Matsuo Basho

clarinet (Bflat)

portative organ

cl.

org.

cl.

org.

and so on?

cl.

org.

cl.

org.

and so on?

cl.

org.

cl.

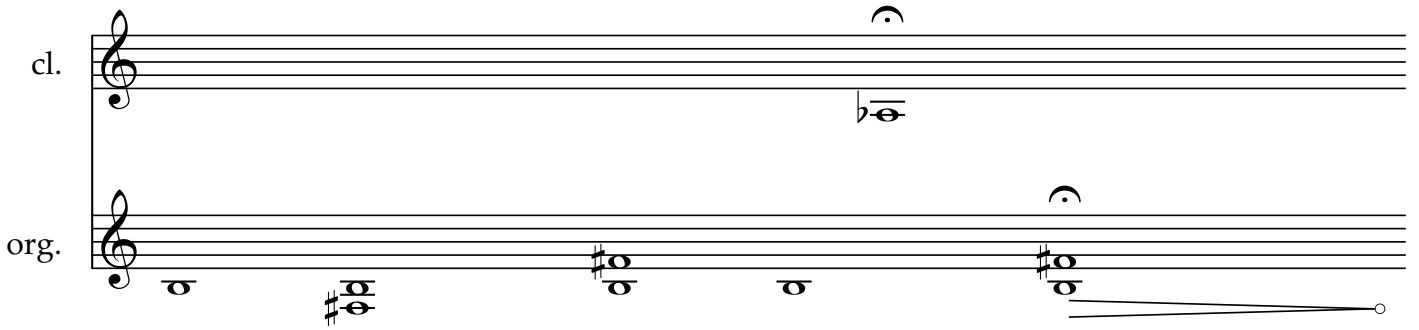
org.

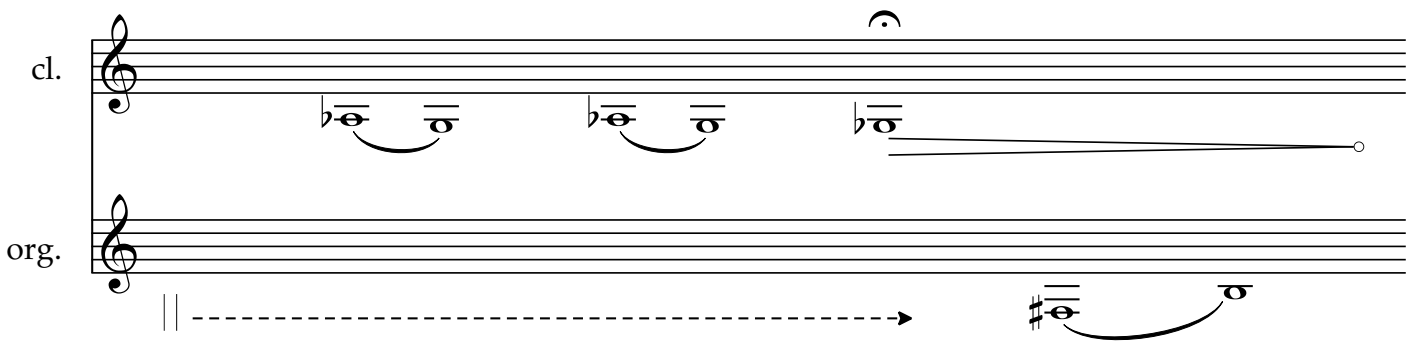
sfz

p

cl.

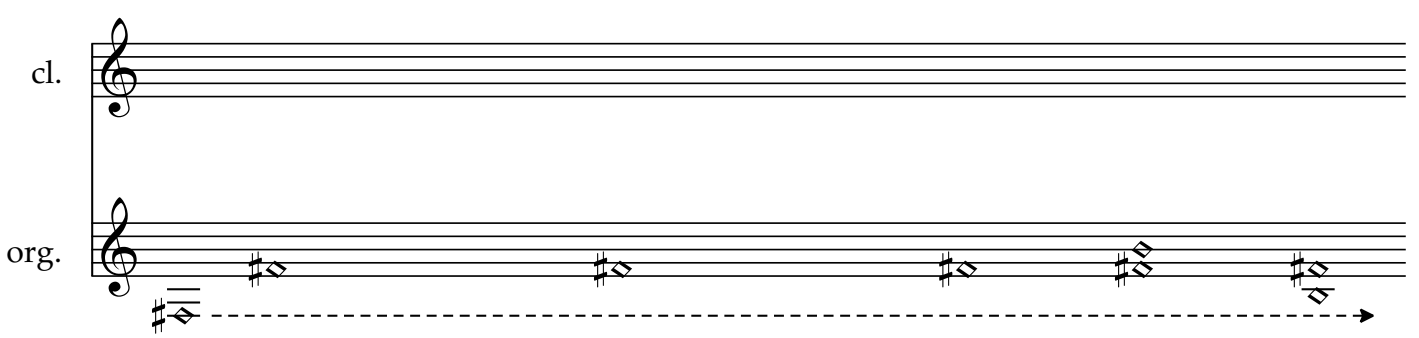
org.

cl. 

cl. 

cl. 

*sostenuto perdendo
ritardando progressions*

cl. 

cl.

org.

secret melodies (any pitches)

cl.

org.

cl.

org.

*secret melodies
(any pitches)*

cl.

org.

cl.

org.

cl.

org.

cl.

org.

cl.

org.

bass clarinet (Bflat)

A musical staff for bass clarinet (Bflat) in treble clef. It contains three measures. The first measure has a quarter note G3 with a slur. The second measure has a quarter note F3 with a slur and a hairpin crescendo leading to a half note F3. The third measure has a quarter note E3 with a slur and a hairpin crescendo leading to a half note E3.

bcl.

A musical staff for bass clarinet (bcl.) in treble clef. It contains four measures. The first measure has a quarter note G3 with a slur. The second measure has a quarter note F3 with a slur. The third measure has a quarter note E3 with a slur. The fourth measure has a quarter note D3 with a slur and a hairpin crescendo leading to a half note D3.

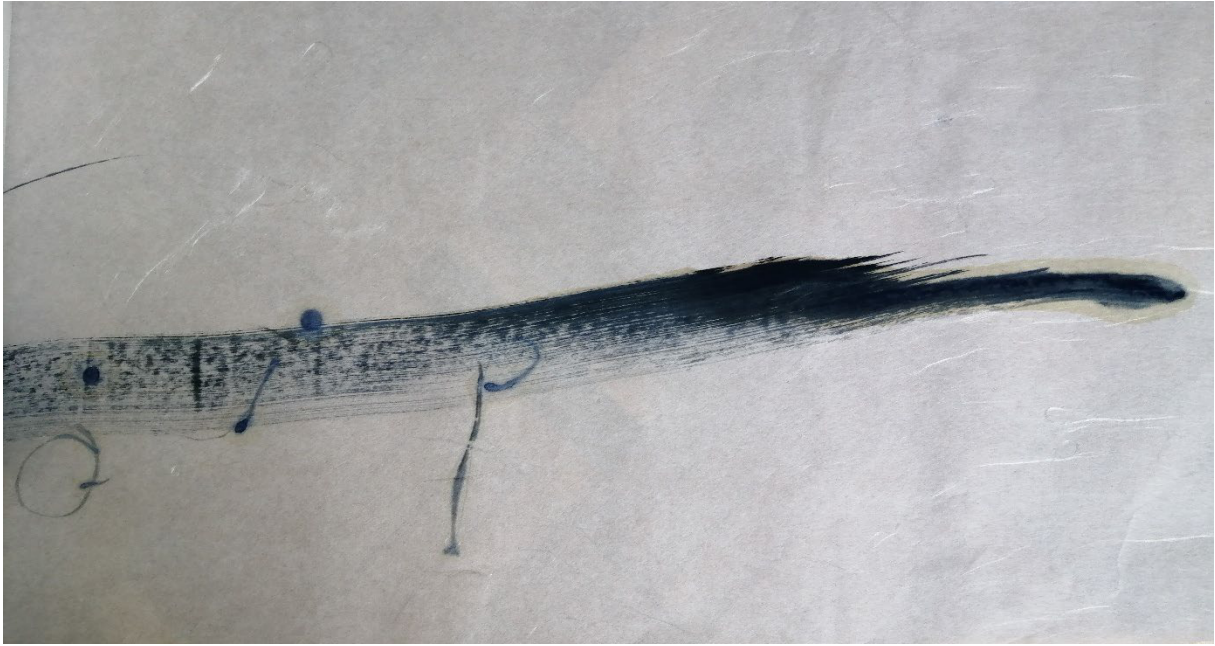
bcl.

A musical staff for bass clarinet (bcl.) in treble clef. It contains four measures. The first measure has a quarter note G3 with a slur. The second measure has a quarter note F3 with a slur. The third measure has a quarter note E3 with a slur. The fourth measure has a quarter note D3 with a slur and a hairpin crescendo leading to a half note D3.

bcl.

A musical staff for bass clarinet (bcl.) in treble clef. It contains four measures. The first measure has a quarter note G3 with a slur. The second measure has a quarter note F3 with a slur. The third measure has a quarter note E3 with a slur. The fourth measure has a quarter note D3 with a slur and a hairpin crescendo leading to a half note D3.

hums in the lilac



1
hums in the lilac

hums in the lilac
drunken - dropping on the grass
rains: due to return

portative organ

The image shows musical notation for a portative organ. It consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and contains three diamond-shaped notes on the lines G4, A4, and B4. Above this staff, a double-headed arrow spans the width of the three notes, and a bracket is positioned below it. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains three diamond-shaped notes on the lines F3, G3, and A3. A dashed line with an arrow at the end extends from the first note of the lower staff across the entire width of the page.

clarinet (Bflat)

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a clarinet in B-flat. The top staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. It contains a melodic line with several notes, some marked with triplets. The bottom staff continues the melodic line. Two long horizontal arrows with arrowheads at both ends are positioned above and below the staves, spanning the width of the musical notation.



portative organ

The image shows a single staff of musical notation for a portative organ. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The staff contains two double bar lines (||) at the beginning and end. Two long diagonal arrows with arrowheads at both ends cross the staff, one pointing towards the top-left and the other towards the bottom-right.

bass clarinet (Bflat)

portative organ

rep. ad lib.

bcl.

org.

rep. ad lib.

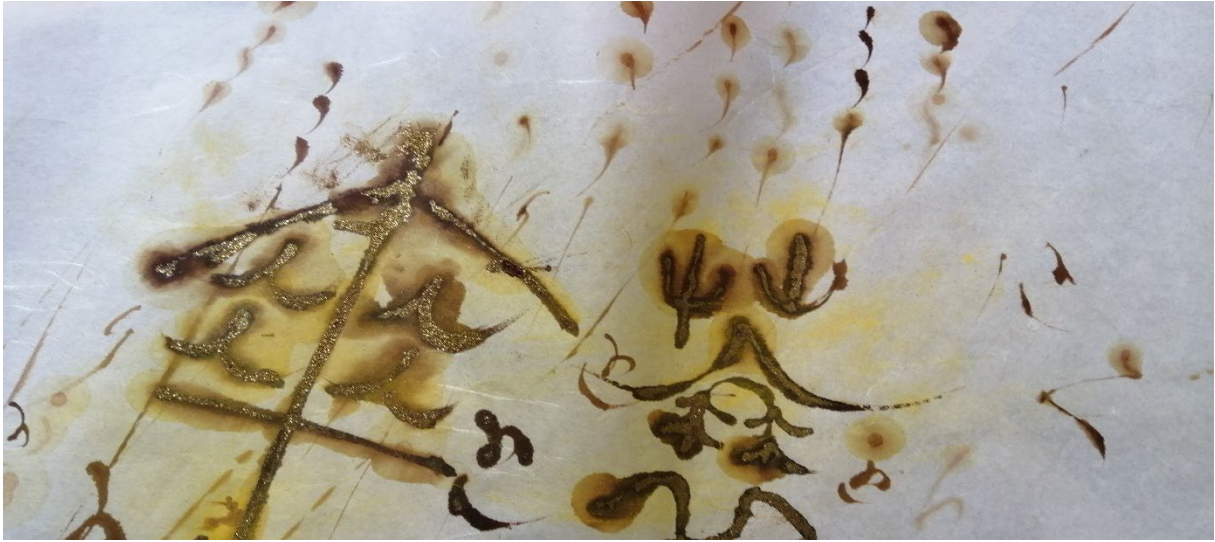
rep. ad lib.

bcl.

org.

rep. ad lib.

between you and me



1
between you and me

between you and me
dressed in blue
river of summer

bass clarinet (Bflat)

portative organ

organ tacet

bcl.

org.

bcl.

org.

bcl.

org.

bcl.

org.

bcl. *bass clarinet tacet*

org.

bcl.

org.

bcl.

org.

bcl.

org.

bcl.

org.



bcl.

org.

clarinet (Bflat)

portative organ

Musical notation for the first system. The clarinet (Bflat) part is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats. The portative organ part is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats. Both parts feature a sequence of eighth notes.

2

cl.

org.

Musical notation for the second system, starting at measure 2. The clarinet part continues with eighth notes. The portative organ part continues with eighth notes and includes a triplet of eighth notes.

3

cl.

org.

Musical notation for the third system, starting at measure 3. The clarinet part includes a sharp sign for the first note. The portative organ part continues with eighth notes and includes a triplet of eighth notes.

4

cl.

org.

Musical notation for the fourth system, starting at measure 4. The clarinet part continues with eighth notes. The portative organ part continues with eighth notes.

5

cl.

org.

6

cl.

org.

7

cl.

org.

rep. ad lib. *rep. ad libitum*

8

cl.

org.

rep. ad libitum

clarinet (Bflat)

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef. Below the staff, there are eight groups of three horizontal lines, each with a small circle underneath, representing fingerings for the clarinet. The text "and so on..." is written below the eighth group, followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small circle.