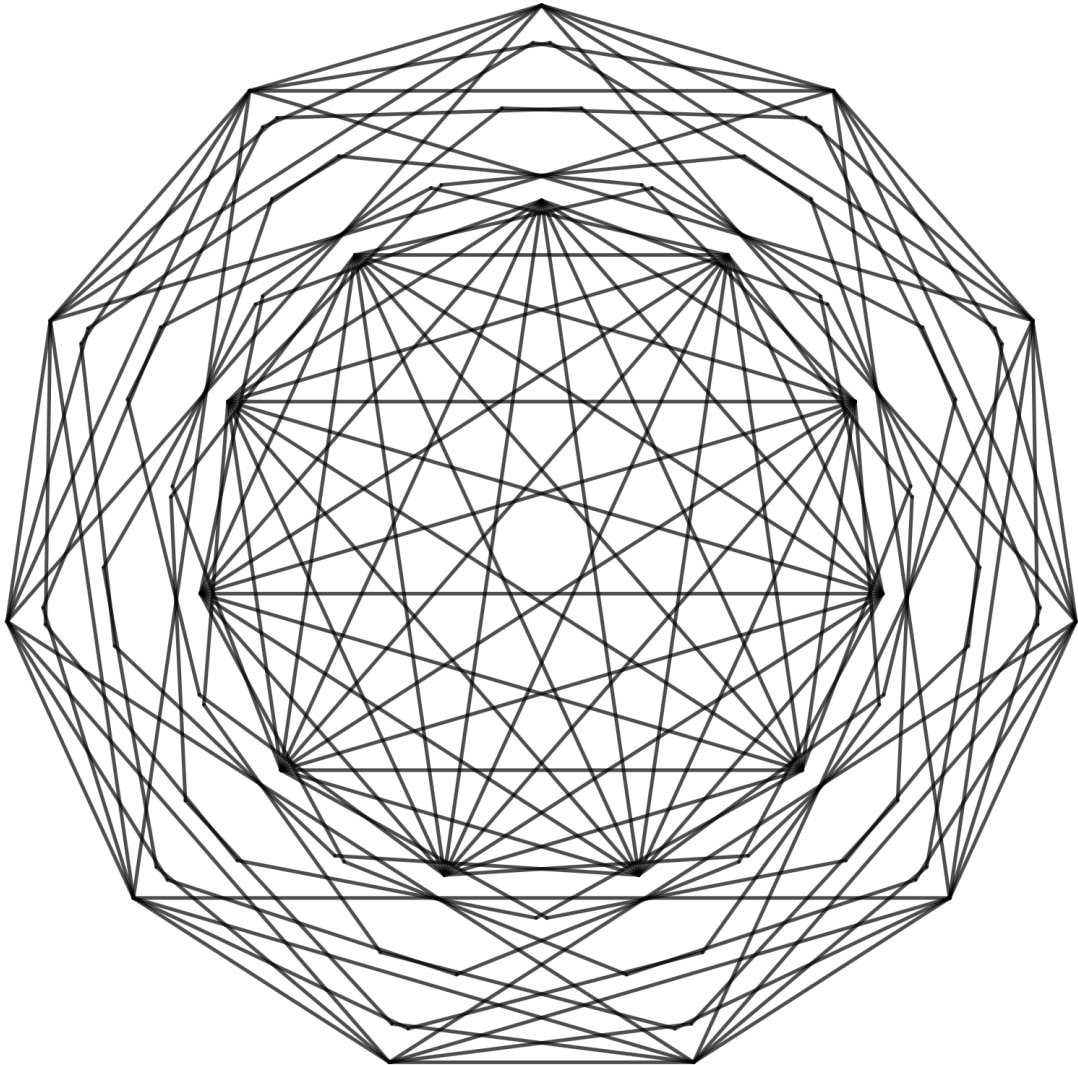


Babel

for SATB Choir



*Written for Choral Chameleon during the
2019 Choral Chameleon Institute*

Poem: Edward Einhorn
Music: Pedro F. Finisterra

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Babel (2019)
for SATB Choir

Duration: ca. 6'

Poem: Edward Einhorn

Music: Pedro F. Finisterra

Program Notes:

In the Bible on Genesis 11: 1-9, the story of the creation of the Tower of Babel is narrated. Seeing that this monument was getting so tall that it was almost reaching the heavens, God decided to scatter humanity through the world and gave them different languages so that they would not be able to communicate with each other.

Through this piece, using an already “scattered” poem by Edward Einhorn based on this story and translations of it over into 20 languages, and by creating scales based on the division of the major 7th (11 semitones) from 1 to 9 I try to, respectively, symbolically illustrate the scattering of one language (in this case English) into a multitude of others and generate the form and pitch material for this piece based on the section of the Bible in which this story is told.

About the translations:

I wholeheartedly thank all these amazing people for translating and helping with the translation process of Edward Einhorn’s poem: Armando Possante, Bjorn Vandenuecker, Carmen Artaza, Carolina Alexandra, Christos Callow Jr., Giovanni Zaniol, Jack Wong, Jean-Phillippe Drécourt, Julia Owczarek, Junzuo Li, Laura Farré Rozada, Laura Hildebrandt, Margarida Espiguinha, Maria Clara Costa, Maria VA Soares, Mia Søndergaard Nielsen, Nasr-Eddine Lalaoui, Nilufar Habibian, Ofer Ben-Amots, Pedro Manuel Finisterra, Rosa van Alphen, Tari, Vova, Vova’s mum & Yana. Without them this piece would not exist.

Cover Illustration: Pedro F. Finisterra

Performance Notes

Regarding Microtonality:

In this piece there is only one type of microtone: quarter tones, and they are represented by the symbols " ♯̣ " and " ♭̣ ". Every microtonal note in this piece is preceded by a note a quarter tone apart from it, either upwards, or downwards.

Regarding the multiple languages:

Every non-english word/sentence/expression in this piece is a direct translation of an equivalent english word/sentence/expression in Edward Einhorn's poem.

The full list of languages used in this piece is as follows: Arabic, Basque, Cantonese, Catalan, Danish, Dutch, English (original), Esperanto, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Korean, Latin, Mandarin, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

Audio recordings for every translation will be available at:

<https://www.pedroffinisterra.com/babel>

Follow my work online:

Website: www.pedroffinisterra.com

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Where you can find my scores:

Scherzo Editions: http://www.scherzoeditions.com/?page_id=6957#ffs-tabbed-11

Portfólios: <https://portfolios.esml.ipl.pt/compositor/pedro-f-finisterra/>

Contact:

Email: pedroffinisterra@gmail.com

BABEL

Lost

Lost the

Words are

Lost

Tower went too high

Babel

Do you understand me?

Babel

Babel

Words are

Went too high

Do you understand?

Lost

Words are

Went too

Babel

Words are

Understand me

Words are

Words are

Babel

Babel

Ba – Ba

Ba

Edward Einhorn

Babel

Poem: Edward Einhorn
Music: Pedro F. Finisterra

Mysterious, Confused (♩=49)

Whispered *p* *p* *mp*
gliss.

Soprano
Lost
Whispered
p *pp*
Lost

Alto
Lost
Whispered
p
Lo*

Tenor
Lost
Whispered
p
8

Bass
Lost
p



4 *p* *mp* *ppp*
S. the Words are
A.
T. *ppp* Words are
B. *mp* W - ords are

* - Lo - first letters of "Lost", do not pronounce "st"

8

S. *mf* *p* *mf* Whispered
Lost

A. *mf* *mp* Whispered
Lost the

T. *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* Whispered
Lost Lo*

B. *mf* *p* *mf* *mf* Whispered
Lost W -



12

S. *mf* *pp*
Words lost

A. *mf* *pp* Solo (German)
Verstehst du mich?
lost

T. *mf* *pp*
are lost

B. *mf* *pp*
ords are lost

* - Lo - first letters of "Lost", do not pronounce "st"

16 *p* *mp* *fmf* *p* *f*

S. Tow* high Ba - bel

S. Tow - er high Ba - bel

A. To - wer high Ba - bel

T. Solo *mf* *mf* *f*
Tow-er went too high too high Ba - bel

B. *pp* *f*
Ba - bel



20 Spoken text*
Solo *p* (Latin)
Intellegis me?

S. *pp* *fp* *fp*
m Do you un - der -

A. *pp* *fp* *fp*
m Do you un - der -

T. Spoken text*
Solo *p* (Italian)
Mi capisci? Tutti *mf*
Do you un-der

B. Spoken text*
Solo *p* (German)
Verstehst du mich?

* Tow - first syllable of "Tower"

** Repeat ad lib., each time spaced between 1 to 2 seconds apart and at different speeds. There may be pitch variation, but no dynamic variation.