

INTRODUCTION

jeux éoliens III

jeux éoliens III for wind octet is the third work from a group of compositions which were written exclusively for wind instruments and whose tonal quality is – at least partially – characterised by the possibility of producing “aeolian sounds”. Similar to the two preceding pieces (*jeux éoliens* for flute/bass flute and clarinet in B flat/bass clarinet and *jeux éoliens II* for bass flute, bass clarinet and bassoon) I proceeded from instrument-specific techniques and their resulting sound phenomena. This may seem self-evident but it is not the only possible impulse for a new piece – for example certain harmonic constellations or formal considerations might also provide the first stimulus for a new work. As the title indicates, the ability of wind instruments to produce air sounds plays a significant part – air sounds in the sense of the typical sound production inherent in wind instruments, but also from the point of view of the technique which enhances a sound through the audible addition of air or which allows a player to produce a sound which practically consists of air alone. The chromatically descending “aeolian” scales, which already formed an integral part of the acoustic pattern in *jeux éoliens* and *jeux éoliens II*, are also of some importance in *jeux éoliens III*, but less prominently so. From the special techniques pertaining to each instrument – such as double flageolets, bisbigliando and quarter-tone glissandi for the oboe; aeolian sounds, slaps and multiphonics with clearly delineated harmonic structures for the clarinet; flaps, “brassy” play and bisbigliando for the bassoons; muted play and pure air sounds with diverse articulation for the horns; wah-wah mute, pure air sounds and bisbigliando for the trumpet – and as a consequence of the limitations which are the result of these techniques, various possibilities of creating a game ensue: *jeux éoliens III* represents a playful concatenation of an assessable number of sound-actions which, in combination, form a well-ordered aeolian network based on personal aesthetic decisions.

(translation: Vera Neuroth)