

INTRODUCTION

poème respirant

poème respirant for 15 instruments was written in autumn 2014 for Ensemble Zeitfluss and premiered by its dedicatee on May 22nd, 2016 in Graz. It is the first piece for large mixed ensemble since *melencodia III* (2010/11 for oboe and 11 instruments) and the first large ensemble piece that combines several of the sound possibilities that I explored and elaborated in (more) homogenous instrumental combinations in the course of the four years between *melencodia III* and *poème respirant*; for example sound possibilities of wind instruments (*jeux éoliens I-III*) and (microtonal) scordatura possibilities (*la pureté de l'envie blanche; la malinconia della porpora ardente; ...jusqu'à l'aurore...: Caprice (IV) bleu*). The title *poème respirant* combines two inspiring ideas: on the one side breathing as actual breathing (exhaling/inhaling through brass instruments), but also in the sense of lifting and lowering, tension and relaxation; on the other side the idea of a poem in the sense of a compact, poetic unit.