

ROSETTA STONE



JORDAN NOBLES

Rosetta Stone – Jordan Nobles

1. *air* 9:56 for 16 bass flutes, performed by **Mark Takeshi McGregor**
2. *ephemera* 5:44 for 4 seven-string electric guitars, performed by **Adrian Verdejo**
3. *æther* 4:58 for 12 treble voices, performed by **Kelly Nobles**
4. *quaver* 7:52 for 8 saxophones, performed by **Colin MacDonald**
5. *crystalline* 8:16 for 24 bowed vibraphones, performed by **Martin Fisk**
6. *möbius* 9:58 for 10 grand pianos, performed by **Jordan Nobles**
7. *still life* 5:27 for 8 five-octave marimbas, performed by **Katie Rife**
8. *typhoon* 4:23 for 6 harps, performed by **Albertina Chan**
9. *rosetta stone* 5:33 for multiple glass objects, performed by **Daniel Tones**

Recorded at Creativ Music Centre, North Vancouver, B.C.

Möbius recorded at Celebration Hall, Mountain View Cemetary

Produced and edited by **Jordan Nobles**

Mastering by **Don Harder**

Cover Painting: **Patricia Oblack** *Daffodils for Savannah* 2007 www.patriciaoblack.com

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www.jordannobles.com

www.redshiftrecords.org

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An abstract painting with a complex, layered texture. The color palette is dominated by deep reds, dark blues, and bright yellows, with some black and white highlights. The brushstrokes are visible and expressive, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is one of intense energy and emotional resonance.

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The idea of “multiples” – musical works composed for several identical or like-sounding instruments – has been a decades-long preoccupation of the composer Jordan Nobles. Whether it’s eight saxophones, six harps, or twenty-four vibraphones, the monochromatic ensemble presents a creative restriction that is capable of surprisingly dynamic and varied results. Taking his penchant for minimalism even further, Nobles opted to have each work on this album performed by a single musician, via multitrack recording. This has allowed him to create works that, for practical reasons, would be difficult to perform “live” (like *möbius*, for ten grand pianos, or *air*, for sixteen bass flutes), while at the same time reinforce the chromatic uniformity of each piece to an almost hyperreal level.

The works on this album span two decades and showcase a diversity of approaches to the multiples genre. *Quaver*, the earliest work here, utilizes rhythmic cells that phase in and out of each other; Nobles’ mallet percussion pieces, *crystalline* and *still life*, and his work for harps, *typhoon*, are engagingly atmospheric; *air* exploits alternate performance techniques to create an entirely fresh and dramatic sound world; *möbius*, arguably the most Cage-inspired work here, loops one-minute “strips” of music, offering glimpses at a harmony that is never heard in full; *ephemera* and *rosetta stone* are fastidiously precise, with the various musical lines interlocked by way of a rhythmic technique called hocketing; and *æther* reveals another great passion of Nobles: that final frontier, space, its otherworldly splendour and strangeness eerily captured by the layering of multiple wordless voices.

Mark Takeshi McGregor
April, 2018



Photo of Jordan Nobles by Mark Haney

Composer Jordan Nobles is known for creating music filled with an *"unearthly beauty"* (Mondomagazine) that makes listeners want to *"close (their) eyes and transcend into a cloud of music"* (Discorder Magazine). He has won numerous awards for his work including a **JUNO Award** and a **Western Canadian Music Award** for *'Classical Composition of the Year'*. Jordan was also the recipient of the **Jan V. Matejcek Award** in recognition of *'overall success in New Classical Music'* and was awarded the **Barbara Pentland Award of Excellence** *'for his extraordinary contribution to Canadian Music'*. He lives in Deep Cove, BC with his wife Kelly and their son Julian.

www.jordannobles.com