

*Marc Sabat*

**For Magister Zacharias**

*for (amplified) Steinway piano mechanism*

**PLAINSOUND MUSIC EDITION**

## For Magister Zacharias (1997)

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This piece is to be played by depressing the keys only partway, so that the dampers lift but the hammers do not hit the strings. On certain pianos (Steinway, Boston), the action of lifting dampers produces a small plucking sound in the middle register of the piano. In an intimate concert setting, the performance may be unamplified and at the border of inaudibility. Alternately, the sound may be highly amplified (on the border of feedback) so as to be audible as melody. Additional sounds from the mechanism itself, and ambient sounds reflected by the piano soundboard, will also be amplified.

The pitches are notated more or less equidistantly, to allow the performer to choose the timing of the notes freely. The playing should be quite legato throughout, with lifts at the indicated commas.

The melodic material is a cyclic elaboration of a tune from Magister Zacharias, a composer associated with the highly complex contrapuntal Ars Subtilior music of the late 14th and early 15th centuries.







System 1: Treble clef (top) and Bass clef (bottom). Treble clef contains a sequence of notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6. Bass clef contains notes: F2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

System 2: Treble clef (top) and Bass clef (bottom). Treble clef contains notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6. Bass clef contains notes: F2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

System 3: Treble clef (top) and Bass clef (bottom). Treble clef contains notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6. Bass clef contains notes: F2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

System 4: Treble clef (top) and Bass clef (bottom). Treble clef contains notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6. Bass clef contains notes: F2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.

System 5: Treble clef (top) and Bass clef (bottom). Treble clef contains notes: F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6. Bass clef contains notes: F2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4.