Marc Sabat

Modernes Kaufhaus

for Clarinet/Bass Clarinet, Tenor Bass Trombone, Violoncello and Piano

PLAINSOUND MUSIC EDITION
for Clarinet/Bass Clarinet, Tenorbass Trombone, Violoncello and Piano

composed for Quartett Avance and premiered by them on 27 July 1998
in the Orangerie at the Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik Darmstadt

The piano is dampened throughout by stuffing a moderately heavy cloth across the entire range of the instrument (under the struts and near the dampers). Alternately, plasticine or “blue-tack” may be applied to the strings. The resulting sound should decay quickly when the keys are left depressed. Low notes should have pronounced harmonics in the decay, and the highest register should have an almost pitchless chalky timbre.

In the last movement, the clarinetist should rotate the mouthpiece so that the reed is played with the upper lip, in the old folk manner.

The music was slightly revised in 2010, adding some articulation marks, and modifying the piano part in the third movement (some passages were eliminated, and replaced by rests, allowing the rhythmic profile of the melody to better emerge). Accordingly, the original title “Ein modernes Kaufhaus” was also shortened.

The character of the music should remain naive and direct throughout, without irony. It might be imagined as three snapshots of Western Germany (or more precisely, the city of Stuttgart) as seen for the first time through the eyes of a Canadian country boy.

Berlin, 21 April 2010

“... I never turned my gaze from them. If they are my hands, I must referee fairly, otherwise I shall bring down on myself the agonies of a wrong decision. But my function is not easy, in the darkness between the palms of the hands various holds are brought into play that I must not let pass unnoticed, and so I press my chin on the table and now nothing escapes me.”

— Franz Kafka
Cool and precise, elegant

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I. Swabian Queen

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\( \text{\textcopyright I. Swabian Queen} \)
(always end and begin tones with rhythmic exactness!)
106

112

116

119

(without accent, balance Cello dynamic)
Well balanced, finely tuned
\[ \frac{4}{4} = 112 \]

Play triads as justly as possible (in comparison to piano: relatively low major thirds, high minor thirds)
III. König X

Majestic, strict, moving on
\[ \frac{3}{4} \] = 144

Play with reversed mouthpiece
(reed upward), in the folk manner

Clarinet in B♭

Tenor bass

Trombone

Violoncello

Dampened Piano

Con sordino (straight)