

## Five Memos

For ensemble

Commissioned by the Fromm Music Foundation at Harvard University for the Look and Listen Festival and eighth blackbird

The five movements of this piece, “Gli Uccellini di Signor Tic-Tac”, “Essatitudo”, “Levetá”, “Rapiditá”, and “Molteplicitá”, were written—more or less consciously—in response to the “values” proposed by Italo Calvino in his well-known “Six Memos for the Next Millennium”.

Lightness, speed, visibility, exactness and multiplicity are qualities that have pulled me to appreciate art for as long as I can remember. They are the values that make me listen to Mozart and Donatoni, look at Morandi and Klee, or read Murakami and Potocki.

Like Calvino, I prefer art that *raises above the weight of the world*. I also favor direct, clear, *visible* gestures that, while mysterious, speak to me with precision and assertiveness. I like the precarious line that separates drama from comedy, and celebrate the fact that an author can make a hat become the main protagonist of a funeral with the magic touch of a sudden gush of wind.

I am a somewhat chaotic thinker, and my impatience (which I would hardly describe as a *value*) makes me gravitate around a narrative that is fast, direct, terse, and to the point, and whose intensity is multifaceted, like the ecstatic anguish felt by a soccer fan before the execution of a penalty kick...

Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez  
© 2010