

**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, “Esattezza”, “Gli Uccellini del Signor Tic-Tac”, “Legerezza”, “Rapidità”, and “Molteplicità”, 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...

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