

evan johnson

**Edison  
Kinetoscopic  
Record of a Sneeze,  
January 7, 1894**

for clarinet

© 2007 evan johnson

# ***Edison Kinetoscopic Record of a Sneeze, January 7, 1894***

## **for clarinet in B<sub>♭</sub>**

This piece was written to accompany the very brief silent film of the same name, more commonly known as “Fred Ott’s Sneeze,” for a performance by the New York Miniaturist Ensemble on 8 December 2007 at the Museum of the Moving Image in New York. It is dedicated to Erik Carlson and Joshua Rubin.

### **Notation**

The piece is notated on three staves. From top to bottom, these represent: breathiness of tone, tightness of embouchure *relative to the notated pitch*, and pitch/rhythmic material.

The breathiness staff ranges from toneless breath (◇) to full tone (●).

The embouchure staff ranges from maximal looseness (□) to extremely tight (■); the upper limit of the staff represents the placement of teeth on the reed. The middle line represents the standard embouchure for the current pitch notated on the bottom staff.

These two staves, in combination with the “pitch and rhythm” stave beneath, may create impossibly paradoxical situations *vis-à-vis* breath and embouchure control. In these situations it is the player’s responsibility to project the respective trajectories of all relevant parameters, even if the tone temporarily suffers.

In both of the above staves, rests indicate normalcy – i.e. full tone for the first staff, and for the second staff the standard embouchure implied by the pitch and dynamic indications on the lowest staff.

The passage of time is notated both metrically and according to clock time to facilitate synchronization with the film. The notated rhythmic material, however, although it is presented in precise space-time alignment on the page, is *not* to be treated as merely graphical with regards to duration, but as a thoroughly metrical and pulse-based phenomenon (however fragile and contingent that relation to pulse may be).

**duration: 4.5 seconds**

for Josiah Kabin and Erik Carlson

Edison Kinetoscopic Record of a Sneeze, January 9, 1894

for clarinet

EVAN JOYSON  
(1897)

Senza sicurezza ma con delicatezza.  
A respiratory event.  $f = 190$  } lentissimo scurprie!

The musical score consists of several staves and performance instructions:

- Top Staff (TONE):** Shows two sections labeled "1" and "2". The first section has a ratio of 3f:2 and the second has 10f:8.
- Second Staff (EMB.):** Contains a "subito!" instruction and a ratio of 7f:4. It is divided into two parts, each marked with the number "4".
- Third Staff:** Features a "respiando" instruction with a 10f:8 ratio, followed by a "stridente" section also with a 10f:8 ratio. The number "16" is written on both sides.
- Fourth Staff:** Includes a "dolce" instruction and a series of notes with a curved line underneath.
- Bottom Section:** Contains three vertical lines corresponding to the "START", "EYES OPEN - REMOVAL OF HAND", and "EYES CLOSED - HAND DOWN" instructions.

use one full breath!

FILM

2" 3" 4"

7f:4

TONE

EMB.

16

"stridente"  
me susz...

1/16

quasi  
insistente

10f:8

3f:2

3f:2

$p \rightarrow \phi$   $p \cdot \text{trill}$   $\phi \rightarrow \text{trill}$

4 1/2"

PROVIDENCE, RI - 20 Jan. 07

EYES CLOSED ~  
HAND DOWN

STAGE.