

Demonic Animal (2021) for flute, clarinet, piano, violin, viola and cello. Duration 8:30 minutes

Demonic Animal was completed in the summer of 2021 and commissioned by Synaesthesia Ensemble. The clarinet part is performed with a synthetic ultra-thin reed, specifically designed by the composer. The piece draws inspiration from the writings of Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, particularly the essay "Becoming Animal" from their larger work, *A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*. In this essay, the authors identify three distinct types of animals. The first is the Oedipal animal, which is individualized and sentimentalized. The second is the Jungian, or archetypal, animal, symbolically present in the myths, rituals, and spiritual beliefs of various human cultures. The third is the Demonic animal, which is unconscious, subtle, fluid, and operates on a micro level. *Demonic Animal* embodies these concepts with specific musical objectives: it is anti-hierarchical, grows laterally without a center or periphery, and eschews conventional structures of beginning, middle, and end. The work offers no privileged viewpoint, inviting the listener to engage with its fluid and evolving nature