

Essay for clarinet solo (1989)

My *Essay* for clarinet consists of five symmetric parts, which can be played in two different orders. The order of the sections of these parts is flexible as well but certain combinations are prescribed. The material for the first, third and fifth parts consist of four contrasting musical characters: long notes, nervous figures, singular notes with sharp accents and melodic lines. The second and fourth parts dissolve these characters into perpetual fast motion.

The title refers to the following quote from Robert Musil's „The Man Without Qualities“: *It was more or less in the way an essay, in the sequence of its paragraphs, explores a thing from many sides without wholly encompassing it – for a thing wholly encompassed suddenly loses its scope and melts down to a concept – that he believed he could most rightly survey and handle the world and his own life.*

The piece was written in 1989, while I was still a student at the Musikhochschule in Vienna.