

ERIC ANDERSEN: OPUS 51. I have confidence in you (1964).
for any kind of ensemble.

PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTIONS.

There are a number of written parts consisting of a text and an alphabet. Additional agreements may be made for performance.

Here are examples of parts:

I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOU :

A A B B C C D D E E F F G G H H I I J J K K L L M M
N O P Q R R S S T T U U V V W W X X Y Y Z Z
a b c d e f g h i
j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z . , - : ; ! ? " ' () \$ * + & 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

(from Andersen. Edition Bonotto, Italy, has an identical version, with the artist's signature)



(from moma.org)

Opus 51 :
I have confidence in you :
abode fghijklmnopqrstu vwxyz

(from moma.org - detail of a page typed by Andersen, comprising op.39, 51, 52 and 53. Fondazione Benotto, Italy, has a similarly typewritten version, however with "opus 51" added with pencil by a writer different from Andersen and, erroneously, the year "1965".

Parts have the same design - the initial text "I have confidence in you" followed by quoting an English alphabet, from beginning to end. Differences exist only in the style of the chosen alphabet and number of symbols after the letters.

There is no officially published collection of parts. New parts conforming to the original design may, however, be produced freely.

Andersen has these recommendations:

1 - do not plan in advance, do not coordinate with others.

2 - never repeat yourself

3 - listen more to others than to yourself.

Additional notes:

The above description has been approved by Eric Andersen and may safely be used for preparing a performance.

At the first performance, there were 14 parts in all. The conductor decided about an arrangement of dividing the given time-frame into 3 sections.

The description has been prepared to bring to light a more concise one of the work and how it may be performed. Historically, the first performance 1965 became a major event in the modernism debate in Denmark. For one glimpse into this, the conductor collaborated with the musicians but regarded the piece as a joke¹. The book Notations from 1969 compiled by John Cage also quotes it, but as one part with no further explanation.

Audio links:

First performance - 1965, Danish Radio Symphony Orchester cond. by Francesco Cristofoli:

http://www.what-is-eric-andersen.net/audio/008_Opus_51_A_audio.mp3

Venice Biennale 1990, candidates from several Italian music conservatories:

http://www.what-is-eric-andersen.net/audio/010_Opus_1990_audio.mp3

compiled by Carl Bergstrøm-Nielsen, 2019

¹ Mogens Andersen: Historien om VOR TIDS MUSIK, Copenhagen (Wilhelm Hansen) 2009, p.87 states a summary of a radio program from 1965 with conductor Cristofoli and the composer participating. The work was one of the winners of a composition competition. - See also Martin Granau: Holms vision I - II, Radiosymfoniorkestret 75 år, Copenhagen (DR) 2000 - II p. 85f, 122, 126f