

## **Curiosity and the Cat**

composer's note from Tymon Zgorzelski

This piece was written as one of the study pieces for my lessons with William Mival. The task was to compose using a limited number of pitches. For *Curiosity and the Cat*, these were F, G, B, C and E flat (which appears for the first time at the bottom of first page). As I am also a clarinettist, I decided to write for solo clarinet, as I know it better than any other instrument.

I think what makes this piece challenging is the variety of characters the performer has to convey. There's the curiosity with the octave displacement echoes, the more romantic melody which erupts into an operatic climax – the [screaming] cat! – before the curious fragments rebuild the original material and move into a quick finale. There's a lot to get across in a short piece, so I would advise practising the shifts between these different moods confidently for an effective performance.

### About the composer

Tymon Zgorzelski is a Polish composer in his fourth year of study at the Royal College of Music, guided principally by Jonathan Cole. His music has been performed at the RCM and across London, including the Royal Academy of Art and Andrzej Panufnik's house, as well as other locations such as the Orkney Islands and back in his native Poland. Recent compositions include *Four Variations on Haydn* for chamber orchestra, *Second Inflorescence* for string quartet, and the chamber opera *Flights*.