for Juanmanuel Flores
and Roberto Flores

Καρκίνος
(Karkínos)

C.M.Champi
"Καρκίνος" is the greek word for Cancer. This piece is about that particular group of diseases. The idea came at a very peculiar time in my life: my first child was about to be born, and at the same time, I started noticing some things in me that made me think I might have developed cancer. This dramatic and opposing perspectives of my future made me think about life biologically. After all, a developing child and a developing tumour are both cases of rapid and unstoppable cell growth that is very strange to the body holding them. The difference, however, is also dramatic: the former produces a new living being, the later terminates an already existing living being.

My idea was to create a model that could represent Mitosis and the mutations within it that would develop a tumour. Mutation occurs in cell replication. Cell replication produces copies of the genes in the cell. Genes makes us what (and partly, who) we are. What makes a Sound to be itself? Based on this reasoning the structure of the piece was constructed: 1) Presentation of the elements of a Sound (but not the Sound itself); 2) Presentation of the Sound itself; 3) Construction of a Sonic mass using the replication of the Sound as the only element of construction (in this process of development, changes or "mutations" of the Sound will take place); 4) Presentation of the Sound itself mutated.

The electronics were made up manipulating my own voice reading an article about Cancer. As the same paragraph repeats a new voice appears, imitating mitosis. However, the new voice is a "mutated" version of the original, imitating tumour formation. As the piece develops the mutation takes over, becoming all that is left in the piece.

This piece was composed for Juanmanuel Flores (violin) and Roberto Flores (clarinet), two of the most talented musicians I have had the luck to know and work with.

The piece is 12' 15" long.

Notes on Notation

**Violin**

- Normal bow pressure and speed.
- More pressure, slower bow.
- Maximum pressure, slowest bow (scratch tone).
- Play behind the bridge on indicated string.
- Parallel tremolo: to bow moves back and forth from the bridge to the head of the violin.
- Artificial harmonic pressure.
- Play on the tail piece.
- Continuous sound.

**Clarinet in Bb**

- Mouth piece off: take off the mouth piece and play with the rest of the instrument.
- Clarinet in Bb: normal instrument playing.
- Mouth piece only: take off the mouth piece and play with the mouth piece only.
- Inhale through the instrument.
- Exhale through the instrument.
- Ordinary lip pressure.
- Stronger lip pressure.
- The strongest lip pressure.
- Open hole: normal playing.
- Half open hole: cover the instrument’s hole only by half.
- Closed hole: cover instrument’s hole completely.
- Continuous sound.