

EL ALEPH after Jorge Luis Borges _for Guitar Ensemble
2013

INFORMATION

BORGES AND "EL ALEPH"

In his most famous compilation of short stories entitled "El Aleph" (1949), the amazing Argentine short-story writer, essayist, poet and translator Jorge Luis Borges (1899 – 1986), explores great issues of human existence with his unparalleled narrative depth. His work embraces the "character of unreality in all literature" and has contributed to philosophical literature and magical realism genres. Immortality, transcendence, limits between reality, allegory and dreams are Borges' common themes.

Aleph, *alpha* in Greek, *alif* in Persian and Arabic, is the first letter of the sacred Jewish alphabet. For most ancient civilizations it stands as a symbol of the pure and limitless divinity.

In Borges short-story, Aleph is a unique point into an old cellar, from where all points of space can be seen simultaneously. It is the place where coexist without being intermingled all the places of the universe, as seen under every possible angle from every possible point in Space and Time.

El Aleph after Jorge Luis Borges for Guitar Ensemble has been commissioned in 2013 by the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik Trossingen (Trossingen University of Music). It is scheduled to be premiered by Open Source Guitars, the guitar ensemble of Trossingen University of Music.

Smaro Gregoriadou
November 2013