

The background features several overlapping diagonal bands of color: blue, purple, red, and orange. Each band is covered with a different geometric pattern, including triangles, circuit-like lines, and repeating letters. The text is overlaid on these patterns.

emily koh

# [word]plays

microtonal works for saxophone(s)

New Thread Quartet | Noa Even | Philipp Stäudlin





[word]plays is an album of microtonal works for saxophone(s) inspired by the similarly named literary technique in which witty word-use becomes the subject of the work.

The central works in [word]plays are three saxophone quartets—*homonym* (2013), *heteronym/* (2016) and *cryptonym:* (2018)—composed for the Amigo Saxophone Quartet, PRISM Quartet, and New Thread Quartet respectively. These quartets take their inspiration from the meanings of the compound words formed when the -onym suffix is attached after a root word.

- homonyms are words that are spelled identically and sound the same, but have different meanings
- heteronyms are words that are spelled identically, but are pronounced differently, and have different meanings
- cryptonyms are code names or secret words

Flanking the quartets are *medi+aTion* (2016) and *b(locked.orders)* (2019). These solo works are named with neologisms which include special symbols, giving these titles a polysemic quality. *medi+aTion* (2016) can be read as ‘meditation’ or ‘mediation’, and looks within for inner meanings and unfoldings. *b(locked.orders)* (2019) can be read as ‘blocked borders’ or ‘blocked orders’, and sonifies the stifled voices of immigrants in their adoptive countries, as well as silenced minorities within their home countries. The version of *b(locked.orders)*, with video art by Michiko Saiki can be viewed at [emilykoh.net](http://emilykoh.net)

- emily koh, 2021



# emily koh (b.1986) | composer

## I. medi+ation (2016) - 6'46"

Philipp Stäudlin, baritone saxophone

## II. homonym (2013) - 07'07"

## III. heteronym/ (2016) - 07'07"

## IV. cryptonym: (2018) - 11'37"

New Thread Quartet

Jonathan Hulting-Cohen, soprano saxophone

Kristen McKeon, alto saxophone

Erin Rogers, tenor saxophone

Zach Herchen, baritone saxophone

## V. b(locked.orders) (2019) - 11'45"

Noa Even, soprano saxophone

Total running time - 44'22"



## credits

- Engineering:** Jason Rogers (I.);  
Jeremy Tressler & Dreamflower Acoustic (II.-IV.);  
Paul Griffiths (V.)
- Editing and Mixing:** Jason Rogers (I., V.);  
Jeremy Tressler, Dreamflower Acoustic (II.-IV.)
- Venues:** Slosberg Hall, Waltham, MA (I.);  
West Center Church, Yonkers, NY (II.-IV.);  
Dancz Center for New Music, Athens, GA (V.)
- Mastering:** Raelynn Janicke, Infrasonic Sound
- Album Art:** Michiko Saiki
- innova Director of Recordings:** Chris Campbell  
**innova Manager of Recordings:** Tim Igel



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[www.innova.mu](http://www.innova.mu) [www.emilykoh.net](http://www.emilykoh.net)





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