

SIMON MARTIN – MUSIQUE D'ART

Quebec-born composer **Simon Martin** does not suffer from false modesty: his music is *Art* – so why not simply also call it that.

2015 saw the premiere of *Musique d'Art pour Quintette a Cordes*, in 2017 he presented *Musique d'Art pour Cor, Trombone, Tuba et Electronique*. 2019 was the year of the first performance of ***Musique D'Art Pour Violon, Alto, Violoncelle, Contrabasse et Traitement*** by ***Ensemble Musikfabrik*** (<https://www.musikfabrik.eu/de/ensemble/ensemble-musikfabrik>) from Cologne – which is now officially released on CD.

According to **Simon Martin** “*the formal construction of the work is very simple: I gradually integrate harmonics of increasing order*”.

This statement is followed by an explanation of the different harmonics used in this piece that isn't very simple to my ears so I won't try to summarise it here (remember: I have no formal musical training).

Playing these long and quite soft chords requires “*remarkable precision of intonation on the part of the musicians*”. To **Martin's** surprise, the ensemble did not want to use a tuner, because “*if they were to follow the tuner, they weren't going to follow each other in the same way.*” So, in the live performance as well as in this recording the performance was all by ear.

Simon Martin : Musique d'art (2019)



Musique D'Art is a fascinating (48'36”) minute piece for a string ensemble that grabs your attention from the start and doesn't let go until it finishes.

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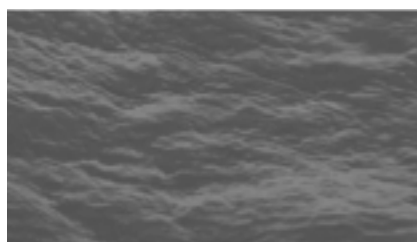
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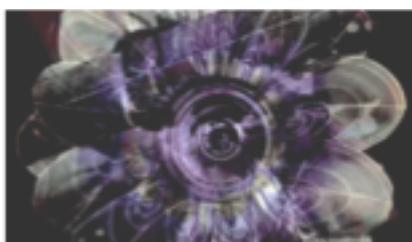
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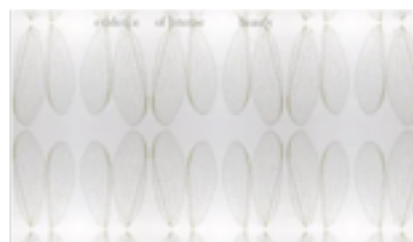
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