

Lucie Prod'homme
Leçon du silence

Leçon du silence 13'13
J'ai un grain et je craque 12'00
Comme un malentendu 9'15
Étire-toi de là! 10'25
Tu es démasqué 15'20

This cycle explores methodically the energy of silence and of matter, and the ways of listening to it. *Leçon du silence* is a research and a reflection on *how to compose silence*.

In this work, silence is a kind of sound (the same way zero is a number). It lives such as a sound matter, and not only like a respiration or a caesura. It takes the time to exist.

I elaborate silence such as any other material, I shape it, I craft the way we to listen to it, and I induce an intensive perceptual state, conducted by the sonic or silent energy, in order to give it its substance and to make it become real for the listener. Then I bet that the listener will ignore the background noise, that he or she will hear silence the same way as sound, hear it as such and distinguish all those different textures, densities, and thicknesses.

Leçon du silence is therefore a work on perception, and the challenge here is to allow everyone to grasp something that does not have any physical reality, to make everyone apprehend sounds and silences with the same attention, recognize both as constitutive materials of the work, and listen to these "sounding silences".

Thus silence really exists. We just have to hear it.

Leçon du silence – 13'13 [2012]

Acousmatic

First Act Of The Cycle Leçon Du Silence

A wink of the ear to John Cage for this piece that dares to use silence as a matter, as an musical element that is as essential as sound.

Just as sound can have different textures, silence can present a variety of densities and thicknesses...

From the single breathing to the heavy silence, how do we perceive various kinds of silence(s)? How does sound sculpt silence? Or is it the silence that draws the edge of sound? Unless if sound and silence are shaping each other, and feeding each other as well ?...

- Presque rien pour un silence dense [Almost nothing for a dense silence]
- Mélodie de silence(s) [Melody of silence(s)]
- Champs (chant ?) de silence/silence d'espace [Silence fields (or songs?)/Space silence]
- Silence assourdissant [Deafening silence]

J'ai un grain et je craque – 12'00 [2014]

Acousmatic

Second act of the cycle Leçon du silence

A grain. This is what could break a good listener's resistance, if there was not any great richness, made of multiple micro-variations (successive and/or overlapped), of textures, rhythms, pitches, breathing, phrasing, dynamics... and of grain.

Obviously, one will have to "lend" an active, attentive and curious ear to the music (indeed, to make efforts), and accept to be immersed in a sonic world that looks minimalist, but that is yet so full of life and energy, in order to apprehend those infinite variations of the "almost nothing".

In the tiny sounds, going from solo to tutti, one will perhaps hear the organization of matter. And how the energy carried by the matter can evoke different meanings and thus, modify our perception.

Comme un malentendu – 9'15 [2016]

Acousmatic

Third act of the cycle Leçon du silence

Si peu entre nous [So few of us]

qu'une impression furtive... [only a furtive impression ...]

brèves allures, petits sons [brief paces, tiny sounds]

à peine un murmure [hardly a whisper]

tendu [tense]

entendu [heard]

l'entends-tu ? [do you hear it?]

mal [bad]
comme un malentendu [as a misunderstanding]
... qui s'évanouit [...that vanishes]
dans le silence [in the silence]

Étire-toi de là ! – 10'15 [2015]

Acousmatic

Fourth act of the cycle Leçon du silence

Exploration of sound, around the energy gathered in stretching, and in breaking down.

Amorce/Tu es tirailé... Je te les casse... Impossible d'aller jusqu'au bout.

[Onset / You are torn... I annoy you... Impossible to get to the end.]

Éirement/Jusqu'où aller avant de rompre?

[Stretching / How far is it possible to go before breaking down?]

Rupture/Ça va péter... À quel moment vas-tu craquer?

[Break / It will explode. When will you crack up?]

Tu es démasqué – 14'50 [2015]

Acousmatic

Fifth and last act of the cycle Leçon du silence

A Game for the ears about appearing/ disappearing.
I hear you. I don't hear you. I can't hear you anymore.

- Qu'est-ce qui se trame? [What is weaving on?]
- Les petits devant [The little first]
- Boucle-là! [Shut up!]
- M'oies-tu? [Do you hear me?]
- Je touche le fond [I touch the bottom]
- À bout de son [At the very end of sound]

[Thanks to Julie Delisle for translation work]