

Five Pieces for Orchestra

Composed between the early summer of 2004 and the first weeks of 2005, and dedicated to Jed Gaylin, each of these short works introduces a unique compositional "situation." In "Vocalise," a simple melody travels across the orchestra, lets us catch a brief glimpse of its most luminous qualities, then plunges into darkness. "Twittering Machine" places various musical "mechanisms" in a scenario of "imperfect functionality": This is an organism in which regularity, symmetry, and pulse try to coexist with their opposites. In "Waves," I walk into a harmonic maze where everything is constantly—yet subtly—changing. The piece is, thus, both a labyrinth and a kaleidoscope, and it allows me to walk in circles, get lost, and, if I am lucky, find the way out. The sound of bells in "Da Lontano" gently pushes the music from the comfortable world of perfect fifths into a more "active" universe that pays tribute to the Stravinsky of the "Requiem Canticles." Finally, "Echoes" lets me play with "hockets," antiphonal gestures, and obstinate rhythms. In it I try to conjure what I think are the essential elements of good dancing: precision, elegance, and abandon.

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