

Mp3 Francois Houle - Au Coeur Du Litige



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22 MP3 Songs JAZZ: Free Jazz, JAZZ: Weird Jazz Details: Franois Houle, clarinets, voice, piano (prepared piano), flutes, electronics, tape realizations Dylan van der Schyff, percussion, electronics Chris Tarry, electric bass, voice, electronics Ron Samworth, electric guitar, electronics with guests Tony Wilson, electric guitar Dan Gagnon, turntable sampling John Korsrud, trumpet Catriona Strang, Nancy Shaw, readers Au Coeur du Litige is a radiophonic work consisting at its core of a series of solo clarinet improvisations. Subsequently stripped of their innocence and simplicity through digital manipulations these solos become a dense web within which there is a multiplicity of threads to explore. The project, inspired by the ice storm that ravaged large parts of Quebec and Ontario, makes use of an innovative live interactive electroacoustic set-up inspired by current works in the field of audio research. Technically speaking, the work aims to free the instrumentalist from the electroacoustic domain's usual constraints, and to generate a sound world more akin to improvisation-based environment, in which the performer plays a decision making role. Excerpt from Franois Houle's liner notes What the critics are saying; Au coeur du litige is a masterpiece, a bomb and a revelation. ... With this work, Houle delivers one of his most important and meaningful accomplishments. There is no doubt in my mind that this album will be one of the most significant ones in 2000. This is worth my strongest recommendation. --Franois Couture, Unheard There are few works as ambitious in recent Canadian music as this two hour, 2 CD set. Spool is calling it "Sound Art," though that only hints at it. ... The cumulative work is one of daunting scale, one that shifts meanings with each rehearing because the listener's ear is inevitably caught by a different stream of detail. --Stuart Broomer, Opus My opinion is that no matter how you listen to it or analyze it, Au Coeur du Litige is a sensory experience confirming Houle as a composer and instrumentalist setting the highest of standards for the international contemporary creative musical scene. --Laurence Svirchev,

Planet Jazz True, it is a document of our time, but it definitely points to the future. This is a most welcome recording by one of Canada's leading new music personalities. --Marc Chenard, Musicworks Houle and his troupe of improvisors traverse a number of sonic terrains, some forbidding and icy, others warm and inviting. The quartet with Samworth, Tarry, and van der Schyff is splendid, alternately whipping up new storms of sound or creating quiet repose. And throughout, Houle's warm and woody tone blends in well with the electronics, creating soundscapes of great detail. The solo improvisations that occupy the heart of disc one (many of which comprise the bulk of the Ice Storm recreation) are stunning. ...This is yet another strong entry in Houle's important oeuvre. --Jason Bivins, Cadence Houle's multisectional composition is neither program music or documentary; it is more of a collage of environmental tapes, texts (news reports, interviews, and poetry), carefully designed and improvised sounds, and electronically manipulated material -- an intentional confusion of voices (human and musical, recognizable and unaccountable,) somewhat akin to a Cagean "opera" -- which evokes a sense of the elemental and often incomprehensible workings of Nature along with the multiplicity of effects (physical and psychological) an event like this has on individuals and a community. ... This is an impressive achievement, risky and rewarding from a musical and extramusical perspective, displaying considerable musicianship and imagination. Highly recommended. --Art Lange, Fanfare Houle is a master musician who boasts a prodigious technique and a wide vision. While this is a more esoteric project than others on which he usually participates, it is stimulating fare that encompasses commodious swatches of color, with electronics, percussion, electric guitar, and clarinets hurled into the brew. ... Even divorced from the storm's theme, this imaginary soundtrack stands on its own, with fascinating textures and a splendid show of clarinet finesse. --Steven Loewy, All Music Guide At its heart, though, Au Coeur works best as an enormously affecting reprise of a time that, for many not directly involved in the emergency, sparked conflicting emotions of horror and voyeuristic curiosity, empathy and incomprehension. You will feel all those things listening to this CD -- and yes, if you are of an analytical bent, you'll know that you are being made to feel those things, through Houle's masterful manipulation of his medium. But it won't matter. You'll be too intrigued by his methodology, too seduced by his sound, and too swept up in the work's abstract yet compelling narrative drive to care. -- Alexander Varty, Georgia Straight

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