

Horizon nordique

Northen Horizon

(2018)

Guitar and harpsichord

The guitar's opening move, the emblematic C minor chord, is followed at once, as if through a prism, by the harpsichord's continuum of rapidly repeated tones and tints. In variations of light and shades the harpsichord spins glittering threads.

At the beginning a mass of sound in the interval of the fifth in the treble notes of the instrument can be heard, this mass of sound gradually spreads towards the darker sound-waves of the bass.

Then, beginning with bar 60, a cluster billowing round the low F, this note being linked with the Earth element according to Yi-King, the system of classification of the 5 Elements found in Chinese philosophy.

In bars 21 to 36 a trill on D sways and shimmers on the surface of the waters. The D note is linked to the Water Element and the North.

In the center of this universe of vibrant matter, the guitar is lyrical, unfurling long recitatives sustained by the harpsichord's continuum, in a smooth swinging movement (bars 37 to 49) or punctuating chords (bars 50 to 60).

Unlike the harpsichord's rapid succession of notes, the guitar's score favours long intervals, repeatedly making use of the whole range of the instrument, delivering a lively discourse in contrasting rhythms with feelings of freedom and space. Man's part in all this ? The ascending lines express the irresistible impetus of the earth towards the firmament, towards the ever-present obstinate treble E flat. Like a star made of mystery, a distant horizon, this E flat resounds like a call to a place elsewhere, an insatiable quest of the spirit, a question launched into the sky towards the beyond.

Laurence Bancaud

Translation : Lilian et Jean Rossi