

A cold disaster (Un désastre froid)

A composition by Kasper T. Toeplitz for the ICTUS ensemble / a "Noise" experiment



A long musical flow, a vision - rather a listening - as if from within a noisy texture arranged in a permanent and fluid discontinuity, crossed by multiple opposing paths and currents, "A cold disaster" is a look at the purity of "noise" and its variations. A music thought not so much for a given instrumentarium but for a group of individuals that we suppose to have profound reasons in the choice of their respective instruments and the techniques used in their handling, as well as in the diversions of these, whether in their handling or in their pairing with electricity or digital "glitch". Writing not so much the notes to play, to reproduce, as a position, an placement, an attitude to have, composing here will not be so much composing "for" the ensemble as "with" it, trying to induce another relationship - more primitive? or more visceral? - with the proposed music.

"A cold disaster" is the continuation of work already begun in my collaborations with the ensembles Phoenix_Basel ("Rupture & Dissipation") and Zeitkratzer ("Agitation / Stagnation") or ASK ("Suspension - Agrégat"), LFO Orchestra ("LFO") and IRE ("Bestia") as well as numerous compositions for soloists (Erik Drescher, Hélène Breschand, Bruno Chevillon, Brice Catherin, Didier Casamitjana). This work consists in pointing in the score the desired/proposed sound result rather than only the means (notes, rhythms) to be used, betting on the competence and involvement of the instrumentalist to propose the best technical solutions. Its other side is the marriage or hybridization of the traditional instrument with an "electronic thought" in relation to the ideas of polytimbrality and polyphony as well as the opening of the ambitus, but also the microtonal "smoothing" of the instrument. All my

instrumental pieces of the last ten years, as well as my own solo work with the electric bass (BassComputer), are oriented in this direction.

It goes without saying that my active participation in the "noise" music scene since 2000 requires all its importance here: it is not a gimmick on my part but an integral part of my musical thinking : it should be sufficient to point out "Le Dépeupleur", my duet for twelve years with Zbigniew Karkowski, "Inetrt/e", the collaboration for more than five years with Lars Akerlund, or the recent duet "Espace" with Vomir, as well as various collaborations with artists such as Merzbow, KKNuLL, CCCC, Francisco Lopez, Andy Bolus or even Dror Feiler.

The desire here, for this "Cold Disaster", is to propose another way of writing the score, since the traditional, solfegetic, writing does not know how to say the expectations of a more noisy, textural thought and therefore I will go more towards graphic notation, or even, as it was the case for "Agitation / Stagnation" played by the Zeitkratzer ensemble, use an electronic sound file which - helped by its time-line - becomes a score of the piece to be played by the ensemble, a silent guide, since these electronic parts are not intended to be played during the concert (those will be of a different nature, and, as always in my work, played as real-time synthesis or transformations). In order to offer musicians other sonic possibilities, but also to make them adopt other gestures, I also intend to work on electronic hybridation or augmentation systems for all instruments (so the flute becomes a "flute feedback", and the keyboard becomes not only a five-dimensional gestural instrument, adding the possibilities of chord glissandos if needed, but also making it controllable by the breath of the musician ; similar modifications will be made to all instruments - which also of course implies a specific sound spatialization work during the concert)

Since for the project "A Cold Disaster" I emphasize the personality of the musicians, and not the instrument they play, it is only fair to mention those we have chosen, in consultation with the [ICTUS](#) ensemble, to make the sound ideas come alive:

- _ Feedback Flute : Michael Schmid
- _ Tuba & electronics : Pascal Rousseau
- _ Percussions & electronics : Tom De Cock
- _ Electronic keyboards (5-D keyboard & breath control) : Jean-Luc Plouvier
- _ Cello & electronics : Geert De Bièvre
- _ Real-time synthesis & BassComputer : Kasper T. Toeplitz

The duration of the music will be at around 1 hour

"A Cold Disaster" is scheduled for mid-2020

More about the projet : www.sleazeart.com/AColdDisaster.html

The executive Producer of the project is [La Muse en Circuit](#) centre national de création musicale

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