

Michel van der Aa



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FULL ORCHESTRA

Second Self

2004

15 min

for orchestra and soundtrack

0.0.Ebcl.2(II=bcl).0-2.2.2.tbtn.1-perc(2)-strings(12.12.10.8.6)-soundtrack(laptop, 1 player)

"Sophisticated shadow plays." (Eleonore Büning, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 19 Oct 2004)

"Perfect and emotionally balanced... emotion and superior technique exactly form the grandiose combination that rules in Van der Aa's composing... virtuosic use of electronics... a work full of fantasy that always sounds apparent and striking but also always surprises." (Telegraaf, 12 Dec 2004)

"Fresh music that carefully balances the electronic and acoustically produced sounds." (Trouw, 9 Dec 2004)

"Michel van der Aa's highly expressive work Second self depicts an exciting inner conflict. Sensitive plainchant passages and virtuoso pizzicato interludes are accompanied by ticking time measures and extreme rhythmic changes. We hear clusters forming in several layers. A live orchestra, a solo string quartet and recorded samples of the orchestra make up the virtuoso 'characters'. Roland Kluttig consistently developed the interactions and vibrant confrontations of this inwardly glowing piece. Again and again the surrounding aural landscape would lurch and lose its balance. Somewhat mysteriously, the musicians were joined by an invisible partner. The string quartet responded to the orchestra with sampled excerpts of the musical material. One attractive element of the piece were its prominent dynamic contrasts." (Alexander Walther, Das Orchester 1/2005)

World Premiere: 15 Oct 2004

Donaueschingen, Germany

SWR-Sinfonieorchester Baden-Baden und Freiburg

Conductor: Roland Kluttig