

Étude aux objets

for chamber ensemble

things begin to speak by themselves, as if they were bringing
a message from a world unknown to us and outside us.

Pierre Schaeffer

The title of this piece is borrowed from Pierre Schaeffer (1910–1995), who made some of the first experiments in making sonic art out of recorded noises. He wanted his listeners to forget what his original sounds were, and instead to hear them as objects of beauty in their own right - pure ‘sound objects’. In doing so, he thought, not only will we hear the sounds in a new way, but we will also start to hear new connections these sounds that we were not aware of before. In my new piece I wanted to take the same approach. Instead of recorded sounds my ‘objects’ are fragments of instrumental music, but they are still essentially just sounds.

When listening to this piece, we should try to forget everything we know about music, and just listen to the sounds before us. We should listen as if we have never heard any sounds before. If we can do that, new connections can emerge and new, unexpected ‘meaning’ be revealed.

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