

Composition: Electronic Media

Fall 2011

Listening Presentation: Robert Normandeau

1. Background

- a. Canadian composer
- b. Completed BMus in Composition from the Université Laval, Québec City in 1984
- c. Completed MMus in Composition in Montréal, 1988
- d. Completed PhDMus in Electroacoustic Composition in 1992
- e. Professor in electroacoustic music composition at Université de Montréal since 1999.
- f. Studied under Marcelle Deschênes and Francis Dhomont.
- g. "[...] his compositions employ esthetical criteria whereby he creates a "cinema for the ear" in which "meaning" as well as "sound" become the elements that elaborate his works."

2. *Palimpseste*

- a. Composed 2005
- b. Duration 14:53
- c. Fixed media
- d. palimpsest - a manuscript on which two or more successive texts have been written, each one being erased to make room for the next
- e. This work is the fourth and final piece in a cycle called *Onomatopoeias*. The other three pieces are *Éclats de voix* (1991), *Spleen* (1993), and *Le renard et la rose* (1995).
- f. The work is divided into five sections:
 - i. Fury and Rhythm
 - ii. Bitterness and Timbre
 - iii. Anger and Dynamics
 - iv. Tiredness and Space
 - v. Wisdom and Texture
- g. This same word association and internal structuring is used in the preceding three cycle-pieces.
- h. The work is composed exclusively with vocal sounds, specifically with onomatopoeias. The text was partially assembled from notes on the preceding three cycle-pieces.