

Preview File Only

tim souster

curtain of light
for metal percussion and tape

(1984)

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CURTAIN OF LIGHT was first performed by Elizabeth Davis at the Almeida Theatre, Islington, London on June 26th 1984.

Duration: 10'30"

Instrumentation:- 1 bell-tree or "whisper chime" (as constructed by Michael Ranta of Asian Sound, Köln). As high in pitch and as microtonal in tuning as possible.
6 high bells, probably Indian or Chinese.
8 gongs of as indeterminate pitch as possible but matching in tone quality. All higher than the tam-tams in pitch, but all lower than the bells.
3 tam-tams: medium, large and very large.

Presentation:- The lighting of the stage is very important. The changes of lighting are notated in the score but the full lighting should be as powerful, drenching, as possible. The player should wear simple clothes, e.g. all white. The instruments should be fixed either: 1) on a frame which partially surrounds the player or 2) on a bar/or bars which descend slowly from the flies before the piece begins.

Tape part:- The stereo tape is designed to be played off Ch 1 and Ch 2 of a TEAC A3440 machine, while on Ch 4 there is a pulse to give clock-timings on an Electrosonics MX clock. Alternatively a stop-watch can be used with a purely 2-track stereo version of the tape.

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Curtain of Light
1984, for metal percussion
and tape.

Timing is encoded on tape channel IV and displayed to percussionist on digital clock. To start, wait for clock to start moving.

dedicated to the memory of my mother

0'00" 0'08" 20" 5" 20" 25" 30" 35" 40" 45" 50" 55" (2'00")

tape: as dark as possible
FACE T

perc: Chimes: blow on chimes. Isolated sounds, as if in light breeze. Sound becoming more continuous. Brush smoothly with finger-tips, very slow. Sound gradually becomes amplified.

(left end) (middle) (right end) (middle) etc. ...

1'00" 1'05" 1'10" 15" 20" 25" 30" 35" 40" 45" 50" 55" (2'00")

tape: start to bring up light
Chimes: sim.

perc: 6 hi bells: (i) v. slow build-up of light till 5'00"

Small metal beater $\frac{1}{2}$
mp

2'00" 2'05" 2'10" 15" 20" 25" 30" 35" 40" 45" 50" 55" (3'00")

tape: (sim.)

chimes: (sim.)

perc: bells

3'00" 3'05" 3'10" 15" 20" 25" 30" 35" 40" 45" 50" 55" (4'00")

tape: etc. sim.

perc: chimes: sim. grad. more intermittent

8 gongs: $\left(\begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \end{matrix} \right)$
f, but resonant.

4'00" 4'05" 4'10" 15" 20" 25" 30" 35" 40" 45" 50" 55" (5'00")

tape: etc. sim.

perc: gongs: 3. 5. 7.