

Trade Winds: Concerto for Tabla & String Orchestra

www.shawnmativetsky.com



The title alludes to the weather patterns that allowed ancient cultures to meet and trade with each other. It refers to a blending of cultures and exchange of ideas, brought about by a mutually-occurring phenomenon, wind (or in this case, music).

COMPOSER: Christien Ledroit
TABLA: Shawn Mativetsky (photo)

Trade Winds is a 14-minute concerto for tabla and string orchestra, built almost entirely from a few short musical fragments based on Indian musical scales and rhythms. The structure of the work is a loose interpretation of one of many Indian solo structures, and while it does not adhere strictly to Indian models, it captures the same basic slow-fast structure. The fast sections undergo a process of metamorphosis, from a jhap-taal (10 beat cycle) rhythm to a rupak (7 beat cycle) rhythm (and viceversa), with the coda set in a teentaal (16 beat cycle) rhythm, while the unmetred sections dissect the basic materials of the metered sections and explore their various musical aspects.

CHRISTIEN LEDROIT has studied with an eclectic group of composers including Michael Colgrass, Sean Ferguson, Jean Lesage, Alcides Lanza, Alfred Fisher, John Burge, and Marjan Mozetich and holds a Masters degree in composition from McGill University as well as a Bachelors degree in composition from Queen's University.

Today his music is most influenced by his studies in contemporary art music composition and his background in punk rock. Ledroit's music is characterized by a high level of intellectual composition mixed with a tendency towards aggressive and driving textures. Recent commissions have also brought an influence of the rhythms, structures, and melodies of India. In April 2004 the Esprit Orchestra premiered his

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piece *Streamlined*, with Ledroit himself playing the electric guitar part. This concert was later broadcast on 2 New Hours, on CBC Radio 2.

In September of 2006, the tabla concerto *Trade Winds* was premiered by Shawn Mativetsky with the Thirteen Strings of Ottawa to an enthusiastic audience. The Ottawa Citizen called the work "persuasive" and "the most fascinating piece on the program." The work was also performed by the Windsor Symphony Orchestra during the 2008 Windsor Symphony Canadian Music Festival.

Recent commissions include new works for clarinetist Heather Henderson, accordionist Joseph Petric, and violinist Parmela Attariwala.

SHAWN MATIVETSKY performs in a variety of musical genres with dynamism and skill. Equally at home in Western classical and contemporary/new music, Indian classical music, and world music, Shawn also composes and performs music for dance and theatre. He is active in the promotion of the tabla and North Indian classical

music through lectures, workshops, and performances across Canada and internationally. Based in Montreal, Shawn teaches tabla and percussion at McGill University. His solo CD, *Payton MacDonald: Works for Tabla*, was released in 2007 on the Atma Classique label.

Shawn has performed numerous solo recitals, spanning Canada, the United States, England, and India. He has been featured in series such as the Windsor Canadian Music Festival, New Music in New Spaces, Groundswell, Festival Montréal Baroque, Jusqu'aux Oreilles, Evolutions, Voyages: Montréal-New York, Festival International du Domaine Forget, New Works Calgary, Music Toronto, and the Percussive Arts Society International Convention. Since 2003, Shawn has been affiliated with the Pandit Ram Sahai Foundation (UK/India), and in the summers of 2006 and 2008, hosted tabla maestro Pandit Sharda Sahai's annual summer tabla workshop. As a practitioner of Indian classical music, Shawn regularly gives solo tabla performances, as well as accompanying kathak dance, voice, bansuri, sarod, santoor, and sitar artists.

March 2011

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