

Tender Illusions

Tender Illusions is written for the same instrumentation as Schubert's *Octet*, and although it starts with the same chord in the winds and bass as the Schubert, my piece creates an alternate reality, a path not taken. After the clarion opening taken from Schubert, we enter a dreamscape, one with rustling, unstable textures, and a melodic sensibility that perhaps has been abstracted from the lyrical second movement of the Schubert. The music is, as the title suggests, both tender and illusory.

There is a saying in Tibetan Buddhism, that when you are not formally meditating you should try to be a child of illusion, with fresh eyes to everything you come upon, and to view everything as being as insubstantial as a dream. It was only in this way that I was able to approach the Schubert *Octet*. The first chord of his piece could go anywhere; it became the passport to my piece.

Tender Illusions was written for the Scharoun Ensemble Berlin.

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