

Now regarded as one of the most important composers of the second half of the twentieth century, Toru Takemitsu was the first Japanese composer to gain international status. This selection of his piano music, extending over 43 years, offers an inclusive overview of his stylistic development from *Romance* (1949), the nineteen-year-old composer's earliest surviving piano work, to the hypnotic *Rain Tree Sketch II* (1992), Takemitsu's last work for solo piano. The music ranges widely in style from *Pause ininterropue* (Uninterrupted rest) (1952-59), which shows the influence of Debussy, Scriabin and Messiaen, and the aleatoric *Piano Distance* (1961), to the nocturnal and meditative *For Away* (1973) inspired by Indonesian gamelan music.

Toru TAKEMITSU

(1930-1996)

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|---|------|--|------|
| 1 <i>Romance</i> (1949)
Lento in due movimenti
(1950) | 4:15 | 8 <i>For Away</i> (1973) | 6:51 |
| 2 I. Adagio | 4:27 | 9 <i>Les yeux clos</i> (1979) | 6:17 |
| 3 II. Lento misteriosamente
Pause ininterropue
(Uninterrupted Rest Nos. 1-3)
(1952, 1959) | 4:45 | 10 <i>Les yeux clos II</i> (1988) | 6:44 |
| 4 I. Slowly, sadly and as if to
converse with | 6:20 | 11 <i>Rain Tree Sketch</i> (1982) | 3:35 |
| 5 II. Quietly and with a cruel
reverberation | 3:06 | 12 <i>Rain Tree Sketch II</i> (1992) | 4:11 |
| 6 III. A song of love | 1:18 | Piano Pieces for Children
(1978) | |
| 7 <i>Piano Distance</i> (1961) | 4:16 | 13 No. 1 Breeze | 0:49 |
| | | 14 No. 2 Clouds | 1:37 |
| | | Litany (recomposition of Lento
in due movimenti) (1989) | |
| | | 15 I. Adagio | 4:37 |
| | | 16 II. Lento misterioso | 5:12 |

Kotaro Fukuma, Piano

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