

About Frissons I and II

This work for solo violin explores the micro-sound world of the violin as a sound-producing instrument using extreme natural harmonics and open strings, with various types of bowings, bow tensions and bow positions to bring out a variety of gradations of sounds (pitch bendings, pitch shifts, incidental harmonics, etc.).

The first movement, which is through-composed and directional, serves as an introduction and sonic model for the more openly notated/organized second movement. While the first movement explores the acoustic space of the violin, the second movement allows the performer to explore the score/sonic material space of Frissons, the work.

The focus on minimal materials – open string pitches – of the first movement is inspired by Eastern meditational practices, and the open exploratory journey of the second movement is inspired by the labyrinthine Chinese courtyard gardens of Suzhou.