Acoustic Reverb

Review by Phil Freeman

Portuguese cellist Rodrigues takes his instrument into 11 Berlin churches, recording a total of 58 tracks, ranging from 27 seconds to just over three minutes. Often brilliantly reverberant rooms, churches and other sacred spaces have a powerful appeal to improvising musicians. Fellow cellist Okkyung Lee has done some very interesting work in this vein, though she's more drone-oriented than Rodrigues, who emits lots of chirps and short, sharp notes which fly into the darkness like darts. On "Christuskirche IX", his tiny, precise scrapes sound like he's pulling the instrument's body apart. On "Herz-Jesu-Kirche XI", he comes up with a beautiful, classical-style melody before taking it apart, then bringing the music back home again.

Source: The Wire, Issue 468, February 2023, page 63.
Text transcription prepared from the artist-supplied PDF clipping.
Copyright 2023 The Wire. This is not a facsimile of the printed page.