
francisco lópez

live in san francisco



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With his ongoing pursuit of an “absolute concrète music,” Francisco López has recontextualized the sounds of the world around us by pushing these sounds to their polar extremes. At times, he has imposed gaping silences and eradicated all but the slightest traces of musicality; at others, he has turned the placid wash of rainforest insect chatter into mechanically toxic drones and twisted a gentle breeze into a hurricane force blast of raw sound. The ambient din of the urban environment, human voices, the run-out grooves of vinyl, and even propulsive death metal blast beats count as some of the choicest source material with the imposing López catalogue, which includes well over 130 published works. Over his illustrious career, López has traveled extensively both recording his source material and giving acousmatic performances for which he insists the audience members wear blindfolds.

Over the years, the sound-arts organization 23five Incorporated has sponsored numerous López performances in and around San Francisco; and it is only fitting that 23five should publish this document of live recordings from San Francisco, with one track culled from the infamous Hexaphonic show at The Lab in August 2000, and the other from an intimate performance at 3feetofftheground in July 2001. The spectral timbres and ominous somatic fluctuations of those performances inspired some audience members to gush: “It was just amazing how he layered the tracks together into massive lump of sonic force. Totally different from what can be heard on many of his releases which tend to be minimal and silent. I was craving for more. López rocks!”

As with the previous Live in 'S-Hertogenbosch document, Live in San Francisco comes with a blindfold to enhance the phenomological experience of López's dramatic compositions.



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Founded in 1993, 23five Incorporated is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the development and increased awareness of sound works in the public arena, and to the support and education of artists working with and discussing the medium of sound. For the past 12 years, 23five Incorporated has remained at the forefront in bringing the most adventurous elements of sound art to the San Francisco Bay area. 23five has served as an important benefactor to artists such as John Duncan, Christina Kubisch, Francisco Lopez, Achim Wollscheid, Matt Heckert, Zbigniew Karkowski, Atau Tanaka, and many more.

Other recordings published through 23five Incorporated:

23five002: Michael Gendreau *55 pas de la ligne au no. 3*

23five003: Zbigniew Karkowski/Tetsuo Furudate *World as Will II*

23five004: Coelacanth *the glass sponge*

23five005: GUM *vinyl anthology (2CD)*

23five006: John Bischoff *aperture*

23five007: francisco lópez *live in san francisco*

23F/SFM901: Various Ju-Jikan: *Ten Hours of Sound from Japan (2CD)*

23F/SFM902: Various Variable Resistance: *Ten Hours of Sound from Australia*

23F/SFM903: Various 33RPM: *Ten Hours of Sound from France*

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