

## SIMINA OPRESCU Sound of Matter

Label

**HALLOW GROUND**

Format

**LP**

Catalog Number

**HG 2402LP**

UPC

602343041803



Store Price

**\$20.79**

Release Date

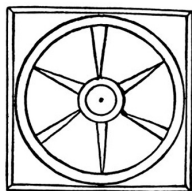
**04/05/24**

Territory

**U.S. EXCLUSIVE (No Exports)**

Genre

**FILE UNDER - O - EXPERIMENTAL**



### DESCRIPTION

*Sound of Matter* is the debut album by Romanian sound artist and composer **Simina Oprescu**. The two pieces draw on research conducted with 15 historical church bells at the Märkisches Museum and the Stadtmuseum Berlin. After the artist had presented the results of her studies of the connection between matter and harmony in the form of a multi-channel installation, she has translated the underlying approach of this site-specific work into an album that unfolds slowly, consistently setting in motion subtle tonal changes that continuously change the mood of the two pieces. *Sound of Matter* is both minimalist and maximalist, creating an infinitely rich and multi-layered dronescape that modestly invites its audience to get lost in the sonic experience. Oprescu has been fascinated by church bells since her childhood spent in Transylvania since the instruments were shrouded in mystery, as she explains in an in-depth essay that accompanies the album. She started working with the archive of the Märkisches Museum, which included 15 historical church bells that were built between the 15th and the early 19th century. Since every bell sounds different according to its shape, material, and density, Oprescu abstracted these qualities in a mathematical formula. This enabled her to recreate the harmonic tone of the individual bells with Max/MSP. She then composed a piece with semi-overlaid tones, i.e. overlapping frequencies. Naturally, this resulted in a beating effect that provided the music with a sense of urgency, though the five-second-long natural reverb of the Märkisches Museum's Große Halle turned it into a "warm blanket of sound," as the artist herself puts it. This is perfectly recreated on *Sound of Matter* due to the music being presented in mono, bringing out the intrinsic movement of the beatings with more nuance than a stereo version would. *Sound of Matter* feels warm and welcoming even when different frequencies seem to create friction between each other or when the subtle beating effects turn into throbbing rhythms like at the end of the record. It manages to explore both Oprescu's personal fascination with church bells and psychological and psychoacoustic questions relating to them as well as philosophical issues connected with them. This music is profoundly physical, but also intellectually stimulating – perfectly at home in the catalogue of the Swiss Hallow Ground label between records by **Kali Malone**, **Lawrence English**, or **Siavash Amini**.

### TRACKLISTING

01. Sound of Matter A (16:16)
02. Sound of Matter B (19:19)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- *Sound of Matter* is the debut album by Romanian sound artist and composer **Simina Oprescu**.
- The two pieces draw on research conducted with 15 historical church bells at the Märkisches Museum and the Stadtmuseum Berlin.
- RIYL: **Kali Malone**, **Lawrence English**, **Siavash Amini**.

**Press Contact:** [publicity@forcedexposure.com](mailto:publicity@forcedexposure.com)

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60 Lowell St, Arlington, MA 02476  
ph: (781) 321-0320 • fx: (781) 321-0321  
[fe@forcedexposure.com](mailto:fe@forcedexposure.com)