



PHILL NIBLOCK Boston/Tenor/Index

Label

ALGA MARGHEN

Format

CD

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DESCRIPTION

Boston/Tenor/Index presents for the first time some of the earliest works by the American composer **Phil Niblock**, including the three never before released "Index" (1969), "Tenor" and "Boston III" (both from 1972), thus making it possible to discover Niblock's starting point as a composer. Until now, it's been impossible to encounter Niblock's compositions from earlier than the '80s, a reality thankfully rectified by the long overdue publication of this *Boston/Tenor/Index*, now on CD from Alga Marghen. "Tenor" (1972) represents the first evolution of Niblock's musical thought towards the aesthetics of microtones, overtones, and drones which the composer would develop in following decades. The piece was recorded by the photographer **Martin Bough** on tenor saxophone and gradually dubbed back and forth by the composer in his New York studio. The audio materials activated in "Tenor" through technologically de- and re-composed sounding textures, became a vehicle for those sound anomalies that would determine Niblock's audio poetics. Performing gestures are deconstructed through disseminating and editing processes by the imperceptible gestures of the composer. With its smooth flowing structure, "Boston III" (1972) stands at the very beginning of this illusion. It was recorded at the Intermedia Sound studio in Boston with **Rhys Chatham** (flute, voice), **Martin Bough** (tenor saxophone), and **Gregory Reeve** (viola, voice); the composer himself also contributed with his voice. "Index" (1969) is an improvised sound performance by the composer himself. The listener is lucky to listen to the movements of the artist's fingers hitting a guitar string and the soundboard in breathtaking tempo. The piece itself represents early minimalism in its virgin state, untouched by distancing technology. Guitar (both its body and strings), fingers and fingering fuse in a vehement action around which barely listenable sounds and resonances vibrate. This CD also includes "Boston I" (1972), or the first chapter of the "Boston" series. This 25-minute bonus track is less massive than "Boston III," but this version is much richer in dynamics and presents a more recognizable voice of each instrument. The music changes according to the loudness of playback. The interaction of the upper harmonics changes especially, with much richer overtone patterns being produced at louder levels. Edition of 300 copies in digipak sleeve, including an eight-page booklet with photos and liner notes.

TRACKLISTING

01. Boston III
02. Tenor
03. Index
04. Boston I

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Boston/Tenor/Index* presents for the first time some of the earliest works by the American composer **Phil Niblock**, including the three never before released "Index" (1969), "Tenor" and "Boston III" (both from 1972).
- This CD also includes "Boston I" (1972), or the first chapter of the "Boston" series.
- Edition of 300 copies in digipak sleeve, including an eight-page booklet with photos and liner notes.

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