



# PHILL NIBLOCK

## Touch Three

Label:  
**TOUCH**

Format:  
**3CD**

Catalog Number:  
**TO 069CD**

EAN:  
5027803146921



Store Price:  
**\$15.79**

Release Date:  
**05/02/06**

Territory:  
**NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE**

**TOUCH**

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## DESCRIPTION

This is Phill Niblock's third release on the Touch label. Phill Niblock is a New York-based minimalist composer and multi-media musician and director of Experimental Intermedia, a foundation born in the flames of 1968's barricade hopping. He has been a maverick presence on the fringes of the avant garde ever since. In the history books Niblock is the forgotten Minimalist. His influence has had more impact on younger composers such as **Susan Stenger**, **Lois V. Vierk**, **David First**, and **Glenn Branca**. *Touch Three* is minimalism in the classic sense of the word, if that makes sense. Niblock constructs big 24-track digitally-processed monolithic microtonal drones, and the result is sound without melody or rhythm. Movement is slow, geologically slow. Changes are almost imperceptible, and his music has a tendency of creeping up on you. The vocal pieces are like some of Ligeti's choral works, but a little more phased. He says: "What I am doing with my music is to produce something without rhythm or melody, by using many microtones that cause movements very, very slowly." These nine pieces were made from March 2003 to January 2005. They were all made (except "Sax Mix") by recording a single instrument with a single microphone. The recordings were direct to the computer/hard disk, most of them using a Powerbook G4, Pro Tools, an M-box and an external firewire drive. The resulting mono sound files were edited to remove breathing spaces, leaving the natural decay of the tone, and the attack of the subsequent iteration of the same tone. Each note was represented by several repetitions, perhaps ten for each tone, of about 15 seconds duration each. Each piece uses a few tones. A simple chord, perhaps. Additional microtonal intervals were produced in Pro Tools using pitch shift. The pieces were assembled in multitracks, usually either 24 or 32 tracks. The recording environment varied from a simple apartment in Berlin (**Ulrich Krieger**'s) to a very large hall used for symphony orchestra performances and recordings, with a sizable audience space. The recordings were generally done quite closely miked. One hears only the sound of the instrument. There is no electronic manipulation in the recording, the editing of the tones, or in the mix. The only changes to the recorded tones are the pitch shifts to create microtones...the microtones are doing the work.

## TRACK LISTING

CD1:  
01. Sethwork - (21:48, 2003) **Seth Josel**, acoustic unamplified guitars played with e-bow  
02. Harm - (24:43, 2003) **Arne Deforce**, cello  
03. Lucid Sea - (20:24, 2003) **Lucia Mense**, recorders

CD2:  
01. Parker's Altered Mood, aka Owed to Bird - (16:27, 2004) **Ulrich Krieger**, alto saxophone  
02. Zrost - (23:32, 2004) **Martin Zrost**, soprano saxophone  
03. Not Yet Titled - (22:20, 2003) **Franz Hautzinger**, trumpet

CD3:  
01. Valence - (2005, 23:02) **Julia Eckhardt**, viola  
02. Alto Tune - (25:08, 2004) **Ulrich Krieger**, alto saxophone  
03. Sax Mix - (25:08, 2004) **Ulrich Krieger**, alto, tenor and baritone saxophones



## HIGHLIGHTS

- In the history books Niblock may be the forgotten Minimalist, but ultimately he will be recognized to be as important as, and perhaps even more innovative than the genre's historical figureheads: **Steve Reich**, **Philip Glass**, **La Monte Young**, **John Adams**, etc.

- This is Niblock's largest scale release to date (3CDs, 202 total minutes!) and is the most heavily anticipated document of his recording career. Niblock's music represents the state-of-the-art voice of a generation for serious sound projection, not to be missed.

- Niblock has influenced such composers as **Susan Stenger**, **Lois V. Vierk**, **David First**, and **Glenn Branca**. He's also worked with **Sonic Youth's Thurston Moore** and **Lee Ranaldo**.

- Phill Niblock is featured on the front cover of *The Wire* magazine, March 2006.

- "Touch Food is an exceptional collection of works by one of the outstanding composers of our time." —Stephan Mathieu

- (on *Touch Food*): "This is music for listeners who want a challenge, who want something totally different, who want activity instead of passivity. The music doesn't tell you what to think, or how to think, or what to feel. It's yours for the taking, and you should make the best of the opportunity." —Tiny Mix Tapes

Official web site:  
<http://www.phillniblock.com>

Also available:  
(TO 049CD) Phill Niblock: *Touch Works, For Hurdy Gurdy And Voice* CD [EAN # 5027803144927]  
(TO 059CD) Phill Niblock: *Touch Food* 2CD [EAN # 5027803145924]

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