



NIGHT FRAGMENTS

American Contemporary Music Ensemble

RICHARD CARR

Tracklist

NIGHT FRAGMENTS

1	The Night Watchman	03.54
2	Static Night	04.30
3	Dark Reverie	03.25
4	The Ghost of a Flea	05.27
5	October Gloaming	03.47
6	Thunder Asunder	04.03
7	A Twist in the Mist	05.19
8	ACME Nocturne	05.23
9	Deep in the Cloisters	04.56
10	Slightly Fitful	03.00
11	Nocturnal Entomology	04.42
12	Just Before Dawn	04.12
	Total Run Time	52.39

Programme Note

Like many musicians before me, the hours between the gloaming and the dawn provide much inspiration. Here are some of my favourite examples:

Morton Feldman: *Journey to the End of the Night*

Duke Ellington: *Harlem Nocturne*

Claude Debussy: *Trois Nocturnes*

Maurice Ravel: *Gaspard de la Nuit*

Manuel de Falla: *Nights in the Gardens of Spain*

Arnold Schönberg: *Verklärte Nacht*

Astor Piazzolla: *Midnight in Buenos Aires*

Thelonious Monk: *Round Midnight*

George Crumb: *Eine Kleine Mitternackmusik* (A Little Midnight Music),
his own version of Mozart's *A Little Night Music*

The air is clear, and the mind is less distracted by the production and consumption that devour most of the daylight hours.

In this collection of pieces, I look at the various degrees of light, sound, reflection, and movement that characterize the nocturnal hours.

The outer edges of night are represented in tracks like *October Gloaming* and *Just before Dawn*. There

is the stillness of night in *Static Night*, *A Twist in the Mist*, and *ACME Nocturne*. The pensiveness night can be heard in *The Watchman*, *Dark Reverie*, and *Deep in the Cloisters*. You can hear the playfulness of nocturnal frolic in *The Ghost of a Flea*, *Thunder Asunder*, and *Nocturnal Entomology*.

On most of these tracks, I improvise on either violin or piano over notated string quartet accompaniment.

The Night Watchman is (like most of this collection) an introspective work that features me playing an improvised violin part over a composed string quartet accompaniment.

Richard Carr – solo violin

Laura Lutzke – violin

Ben Russell – violin

Caleb Burhans – viola

Clarice Jensen – cello

Static Night features long, gently swelling notes played on open strings like ripples in a pond on a still night.

Richard Carr – solo piano

Laura Lutzke – violin

Ravenna Lipchik – violin

Caleb Burhans – viola

Clarice Jensen – cello

Dark Reverie invites the listener to imagine staring into the infinite darkness while exploring the endless regions of the soul.

Richard Carr – solo violin

Laura Lutzke – violin

Ben Russell – violin

Caleb Burhans – viola

Clarice Jensen – cello

The Ghost of a Flea (more whimsical than the first three tracks) is named after a painting by the English poet and painter William Blake. Blake once had a spiritual vision of a ghost of a flea that visited his imagination as a figure rather than an insect. According to Blake, all fleas were inhabited by the souls of men who were "by nature bloodthirsty to excess". This is a completely notated composition.

Laura Lutzke – violin

Ravenna Lipchik – violin

Caleb Burhans – viola

Clarice Jensen – cello

October Gloaming is like a thoughtful inner dialogue during a cool twilight with the wind gently blowing across the moor.

Richard Carr – piano, violin

Thunder Asunder will startle the listener by the sudden use of electronics at the beginning of the piece as well as its subtle Asian influence.

Richard Carr – solo piano

Laura Lutzke – violin

Ravenna Lipchik – violin

Caleb Burhans – viola

Clarice Jensen – cello

A Twist in the Mist for piano and improvised string quartet is like a curious transfiguration of the nocturnal fog.

Richard Carr – solo violin

Laura Lutzke – violin

Ben Russell – violin

Caleb Burhans – viola

Clarice Jensen – cello

ACME Nocturne is named after the supporting players on this album, who are all members of the ACME (American Contemporary Music Ensemble). I consider Morton Feldman to be one of my many influences and you can hear some of that on this track.

Richard Carr – solo piano

Laura Lutzke – violin

Ravenna Lipchik – violin

Caleb Burhans – viola

Clarice Jensen – cello

Deep in the Cloisters is the most electronic venture of the collection. Everything you hear is played by me. I wanted to take the listener into a dark, cavernous, medieval stone structure.

Richard Carr – strings, electronics

Slightly Fitful explores that restless time that many of us have before we fall into a peaceful sleep.

Richard Carr – piano, hammer dulcimer, electronics

Nocturnal Entomology for improvised string quartet invokes the music of insects on a late summer night. There are featured performances by the dog-day cicadas, katydids, and tree crickets in Upstate New York.

Laura Lutzke – violin

Ben Russell – violin

Caleb Burhans – viola

Clarice Jensen – cello

Just Before Dawn for piano and improvised string quartet brings back a few more memories of Morton Feldman.

Richard Carr – solo piano

Laura Lutzke – violin

Ben Russell – violin

Caleb Burhans – viola

Clarice Jensen – cello

All tracks composed by Richard Carr

Biographies

Richard Carr is a violinist, composer and music educator who lives in Rosendale, New York. He holds a Doctorate in music education from Columbia University.

He has recorded numerous albums under his own name and with such diverse artists as Bill Laswell, Fred Frith, Bootsy Collins, Sly & Robbie, The Swans, Milt Hinton, Bucky Pizzarelli, John Pizzarelli Jr., Alan Dawson, Howard Alden, and Karl Berger. He has performed with James Williams, Kenny Davern, Doc Cheatham, Jay McShann, Major Holley, Jamal Nasser, Mike Nord, Georg Hofmann, Steve Gorn, Adam Rudolph, and John McDermott.

He has regularly toured the US, Europe, Japan, and Mexico over the past twenty years. He is a former radio host on WDST in Woodstock, NY. In the 1980's he lived in Boston and played sectional violin with the Boston Philharmonic.

Over the past fifteen years, led by cellist and artistic director Clarice Jensen, the American Contemporary Music Ensemble (ACME) has risen to the highest ranks of American new music through a mix of meticulous musicianship, artistic vision, engaging collaborations, and unwavering standards in every regard. The membership of the amorphous collective includes some of the brightest young stars in the field. NPR calls them "contemporary music dynamos", and Strings reports, "ACME's absorbing playing pulsed with warm energy ... Shared glances and inhaled triggered transitions in a flow so seamless it seemed learned in a Jedi temple". ACME was honored by ASCAP during its 10th anniversary season in 2015 for the "virtuosity, passion, and commitment with which it performs and champions American composers".



Richard Carr



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Artists

Violin: Richard Carr

Ensemble: American Contemporary Music Ensemble

Recording Venues

John Kilgore Sound

March 16, 2022

Engineer: John Kilgore

Producer: Richard Carr

BlueBridge Studio

February, 2022

Engineer: Parit Gupta

Producer: Richard Carr

Production

Mastering: James Unwin

Artwork: Mike Cooter

Executive Producer: Adrian Green

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