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## **François Bayle: Tremblement de terre très doux**

*INA, Collection GRM, Serie Gramme G101 BA, available from Harmonia Mundi USA, 2351 Westwood Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90064 USA*

This album by François Bayle (born 1932) is a rich collection of animal, vegetable, and mineral noises. It is filled with suspense and ambience. You will hear things that sound like—well, like something: wind tunnels and leaky faucets, squeaky hinges and objects being dragged across the floor, steam radiators and subterranean vaults.

*Tremblement de terre très doux* (28 min) takes up the first side. The piece is a backdrop of mutating textures, which evolve slowly every minute or so. Creaks, bleeps, rattles, wind chimes, and recurrent high-

frequency electronic clusters inexplicably break into footsteps, slamming doors, and spooky chords.

The other side begins with *Espaces inhabitables* (18 min), which is in five parts. Here Bayle submerses brief sounds in thick reverberation. The final work, *Trois rêves d'oiseau* (9 min, 45 sec), is the most lively composition on the record. Within its three parts I hear human laughter; such instrumental sounds as horns, reeds, and whistles; and birdlike whines and buzzes—all in the style of classic *musique concrète*.

The strong point of this record is that the sounds themselves are sensuous, uncompromising, and pure. Mr. Bayle obviously respects sound. Throughout, there is little attempt to direct the sounds. They just happen, like the sounds of a harbor or another planet. Mr. Bayle has created a sound stage inhabited by an eerie cast of characters. Although it moves from one kind of suspense to yet another, the plot is a little hard to follow.

Reviewed by George Stetten  
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