

Jean-Patrick Besingrand

# Les lèvres sont froides

pour sheng

(2024)

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## **Program note:**

*Les lèvres sont froides* is inspired by a haiku written by the poet Matsuo Basho. This haiku emphasizes the importance of silence (Silence is golden) by implying that an inappropriate sentence spoken turns the lips cold. This emphasis on silence is the central element of the piece. *Les lèvres sont froides* explores a theme that is of great significance to me: the expansion of the concept of silence. Even though the “pure acoustic” silences are sparse in the piece, the concept of silence is suggested throughout different manifestations. Immobilism, suspended temporality, absence of register, and absence of timbres are some manifestations of these “expanded” silences developed in the piece. The expansion of silence is imbricated in a second layer of development, a harmonic one, articulated around polar pitches.

This piece was written for the SEED Academy 2024 and is warmly dedicated to Li-Chin Li.

When saying something,  
The lips feel cold.  
The Autumn wind.

(Quand on dit quelque chose  
les lèvres sont froides  
— Vent d'automne)

物いへば 唇寒し 秋の風

Matsuo Basho

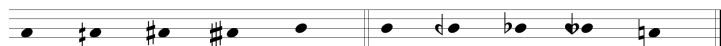
**Duration: ca. 6 minutes**

## **Performance notes:**



: “Cloudy”. Rapidly move fingers like a trill to create a light cloud of sound.

## **Microtones:**



The lines indicate that the pitches are held.

The duration of each system is approximatively between 15 and 20 seconds. It should be decided by the performer. It is more important to think of the piece in terms of natural breathing time.

*pour Li-Chin Li*  
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**Freely (each system +/- 15-20 seconds)**

爆花舌 (Baohuashe)

Sheng 笙

颤指 (Chanzhi)

Sheng 笙

Sheng 笙

“Cloudy”. Rapidly move fingers like a trill to create a light cloud of sound.

Fast  
Medium  
Slow  
(speed of the "tickling" sound)

Sheng 笙

舌颤音 (shechanyin)

喉颤音 (houchanyin)

Sheng 笙

Sheng 笙

*f* *mp* *fp* *ff* *pmf* *p* *ff* *mf*

Sheng 笙

*fff* *pp* *ff* *pp* *f* *ff* *ppp*

Sheng 笙

*fff* *f* *ff* *p*

Sheng 笙

碎吐 (suitu)

*ff* *pp*

Sheng 笙

sh non vib. H

*f* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Sheng 笙

non vib.

*f* *pp* *mp* *pp*