

Avec Swing

Instrumentation (12 musicians)

- Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, Bassoon
 - Horn in F, Trumpet in Bb
 - Drum Set
 - Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass
-

Avec Swing, for chamber ensemble.

Duration: 6 minutes.

I like to think of "Avec Swing" as a fresh and unprejudiced approach to contemporary music composition that embraces today's popular culture and incorporates elements from jazz and other closely related musical genres of our time.

This is only my second piece to feature a drum set, the first one dating back to 2002. But given the fact that the piece makes clear allusions to musical genres in which this instrument is omnipresent, and since I only had one percussion player at my disposal, the choice of having a drum set came quite naturally.

I have almost no background in jazz; therefore, I myself was surprised when I started noticing its influence during the compositional process. But instead of turning away from it, I decided to explore it. This piece, however, is not to be understood as a form of crossover, fusion or anything along those lines. Everything contained within it is the result of my own musical needs and not of a deliberate attempt to mix or combine different styles. And although I have mentioned the word 'jazz' quite a few times, it is also worth noting that a large part of this piece has little or nothing to do with it.

This work, whose title makes reference to Canada's bilingual heritage, has been written for Lorraine Villancourt and The Nouvel Ensemble Moderne.

Jimmy López © 2010