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JEAN-CLAUDE ELOY - LE MINUIT DE LA FOI (2CD by Hors Territoires)
Since a few years French composer Jean-Claude Eloy is busy with releasing some of his own work on expanded compact discs with tons of liner notes on his own label Hors Territoires. The most recent was 'Borderlines' (see Vital Weekly 949) and that was a more recently finished composition. I believe 'Le Minuit De La Foi', which translates as 'The Midnight Of The Faith', is also a more recent composition. It's a long piece, spanning 120 minutes, and uses a few bits of text by Edith Stein, a nun from Jewish origin who studied German, philosophy, psychology and history, who was firmly against the nazi regime and who died in Auschwitz in 1942. She wrote about two persons admired by Eloy, St-John Of The Cross and St. Tereas of Avila. Eloy uses only a few excerpts of her writing, about light, death, freedom, God, and uses these voice excerpts (read by Gisela Claudius) to start a vast mass of sound, using software such as Metasynth. That takes up most of the sound sources, but Eloy also uses samples of cowbells and such like, which he also used on 'Borderlines'. Eloy creates a massive sound here, with long stretched out, dense patterns of sound. Some parts are very dark and low, such as the middle section of 'Lumiere de L'Aube', which makes your environment tremble. In part two, 'Lumiere Crepusculaire' (which is on the second disc, and which takes fifty minutes) he goes down a bit in volume, but seems to be also the creepier of the two parts. It is a beautiful and yet also scary piece of music. It's perhaps a bit long, as some parts seem to go on for a bit too long without adding much, but overall this is a great work. Dim any lights in your room and play this at a volume 'tres haut', and you'll be totally immersed by this. Overwhelming in massiveness and length, this is an excellent work. (FdW)

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