

Initials Dances (2006)

For piano

Commissioned by Musique Nouvelle en Liberté.

Premiered on May 13, 2006 at Radio France, Salle Olivier Messiaen, Paris (France), by Horacio Lavandera.

I. R. Dance II. S. Dance III. F.K. Dance

These three dances for piano (fast-slow-fast) take in many different elements : the first « R. Dance » (R as in Rameau) is intended as a modern echo of 18th-century harpsichord writing with its jagged ornaments and winding, feather-light discourse, set off against jazz elements including inflections derived from the electric bass idiom. The second, « S. Dance » (S as in Slow) begins like a lingering, whimsical minuet that little by little livens into a romantic giddiness, eventually sinking into a hallucinatory mist in which the rhythms seem to dissolve into eternity. Finally, « F.K. Dance » - F.K. is both an allusion to funk and a secret dedication - uses an eight-note theme which subsequently undergoes development via wild, highly virtuosic motion in which one may come across snippets of boogie, funky ostinatos and a rhythmic trance, aspects that gradually break up the main theme while leading up to the final chords.

Guillaume Connesson