

Tristan Murail: Biography

Born in 1947 in Le Havre, France, Tristan Murail received degrees in classical and North African Arabic (at the National School of Oriental Languages) and in economics (at the Paris Institute of Political Sciences) before turning to composition. A student of Olivier Messiaen, he won the Prix de Rome in 1971 and spent two years at the Villa Médicis. Upon his return to Paris in 1973, he founded the Itinéraire ensemble with a group of young composers and performers. The group became widely renowned for its groundbreaking explorations of the relationship between instrumental performance and many aspects of electronics. In the eighties, Tristan Murail began using computer technology to further his research into acoustic phenomena. This led him to years of collaboration with the Ircam, where he taught composition from 1991 to 1997 and helped develop the Patchwork composition software. Tristan Murail has also taught at numerous schools and festivals worldwide, including the Darmstadt Ferienkurse, the Abbaye de Royaumont, and the Centre Acanthes. He currently is a professor of composition at Columbia University, New York.

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