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MECHANICAL FOREST SOUND

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015

Recording: Continuum Contemporary Music

Artist: Continuum Contemporary Music

Song: Red Ensign [*excerpt*]

Recorded at The Music Gallery ("30 More!"), March 8, 2015.

 [Continuum Contemporary Music - Red Ensign \[*excerpt*\]](#)

Congratulations are due to local new music ensemble Continuum, celebrating their 30th anniversary at this concert. Befitting their mandate, it was a forward-looking affair, mixing pieces from Richard Ayres and Joe Cutler with young Turkish composer Mithatcan Öcal. But best of all, its centrepiece was works from Jason Doell and Anna Höstman, two celebrated "emerging" local composers.

From Höstman there was a re-working of her *Lattice* for violin and piano — a piece that was commissioned by Thin Edge Music Collective making a return to the stage in reworked form. Doell's piece was a première commissioned by Continuum, featuring delicate textures rubbing up against each other in slow bursts separated by pregnant pauses. It's a noteworthy accomplishment even if the composer has tried to distract from the work with his subversively pseudo-grandiose program notes — "these sounds aren't echoes and they certainly do not wave in the wind, not in one manner nor another." (It's also recommended to anyone who liked, say, Daniel Brandes' "Intimations of Melody" off the [Bespoken](#) tape. In fact, you can play both at once to quite pleasant effect.)

[*N.B.:* you can hear a much nicer recording of the piece over at [Doell's soundcloud](#).]



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LABELS: [2015](#), [CONTINUUM CONTEMPORARY MUSIC](#), [JASON DOELL](#), [RECORDING](#)

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This is a blog about one curmudgeon's love affair with the em dash, as told through ramblings on music and other cultural activities, mostly about things that happened in Toronto, Canada.

This blog happens in real-life time, not internet time, so it's usually a good long while before full reviews of shows get posted. These days, because of, y'know, *life*, the gap between show and review is about a couple years — and climbing. Everything will be considered in the fullness of time, but you should think of this as more of an archival project than, like, breaking news. That said, exciting + notable recordings will still get posted pretty quickly after the fact.

Check out my [original live recordings](#) from many of the gigs discussed here.

You can also check out full sets uploaded to the [Live Music Archive](#).

N.B.: All recordings should be available & playable. If you come across any broken links, invisible or non-functioning players, etc, *please leave a comment* and I will tend to it ASAP.

ALSO N.B.: I'm perpetually on the lookout for a new place to stash my MP3's online. If you know of any place that allows a couple gigs of stuff to be openly linked to for streaming, drop me a line!
