

Attrition

Duration: 17', for string octet (double quartet). *To Isabelle Lamouline*

Attrition is composed for two string quartets stereophonically arranged. It was written for a choreography by Alain Populaire and Isabelle Lamouline, but without letting scenic considerations influence the nature of the piece.

Attrition means the wearing away of two bodies rubbing against each other. The notions immediately brought to mind the playing of bow instruments. Two sound textures confront each other here: the first is crystalline (ultra high-pitched and harmonic sounds, played *sul tasto* and *flautato*), the second is abrasive (deep sounds and double strings, played tremolo, *sul ponticello*, *col legno* and *pizzicato Bartok*).

Progressively, these two 'geological layers' lose their initial colour and mobility by mutual contact, until their fusion prevails in a sort of absolute stasis.

Jean-Luc Fafchamps