frogsong

Description:

In the spring of 2024, I captured a field recording of the spring peepers (a species of small chorus frogs) singing after sundown at the abandoned cranberry bog in the Pinelands near my home. After an intensely hot summer, a painfully dry fall, and entering the doldrums of winter, I found myself waiting for the return of that season—the memory of spring peepers singing their polyrhythms in the old bog.

The bowed drone of the cold, steel-wound harp strings reminds me of the stagnation of winter - the way time slows to a crawl. The wails of the organ swells feel like long, drawn out chirps of frogs since forgotten. The creaking friction of rubber against brass harpsichord strings, the sound of pages of a book turning, woven with dilated human sighs is a poem yearning for the return of springtime.

Process:

Each part was played/sung by me and recorded separately, in different spaces, at different times of the year, and brought together in Ableton Live. Digital signal processing such as formant/pitch shifting, delays and reverbs were used on the samples. Some samples were stretched, reversed, or repeated.

Instrumentation:

Harp, harpsichord, organ, voice, paper, frogs, and electronics

Gian Torrano Jacobs, November 2024