LES SCULPTURES SONORES
BY FRANCOIS BASCHET
ISBN 1-902440-02-1
The Sound Sculptures of Bernard and
Francois Baschet
UK £14.99 (plus £2 p&p uk)

For over fifty years the brilliant French inventors Francois and Bernard Baschet pioneered
a completely new way of combining sculpture and sound. This book ably documents that
with hundreds of photographs and drawings, plus 200 pages, full discography and excel-
 lent free CD!!! Includes CD.

As the title implies 'Les Sculpture Sonores' is the name given to a large collection of origi-
 nal instruments by the French inventors Bernard and Francois Baschet, who from 1954
pioneered for over 45 years a completely new way of combining sculpture and sound.
Some small, some over 20 feet high and incorporating glass rods, metal cones, wires’,
plastic inflatable resonators, and many other devices, these fascinating structures are not
only cosmetically entracing, but produce an incredible range of sounds and varied sonic
textures. >>>>>>page2

Some, such as the recent 'Cristal' have evolved into extremely sophisticated fully chromat-
ic musical instruments that are just as practical to use as their traditional counterparts, and
are regularly used for performances of anything from Bach to Jazz, and a massive range of
contemporary music. >>>>>>page2
This book is many things, not only François Baschet’s fascinating account of his life and travels, with amusing anecdotes detailing meetings, working relationships and friendships with major forces in the art world such as Jean Cocteau, Yehudi Menuhin, Edgard Varèse, Pierre Schaeffer, Henri Lazarof, Ravi Shankar, John Cage, David Tudor and Toru Takemitsu, but a complete description and technical analysis of the instruments, their research and chronological development.

The book also documents the two brothers amazing success in the early sixties, when after meeting and forming their performance group with Jacques and Yvonne Lasry, their sculptures were featured in major periodicals such as ‘Time’, ‘Life’ and ‘The New Scientist’ magazine, in many films, and highly prestigious tours and exhibitions all over the world such as The 1970 Osaka World Fair and the MOMA, (Museum of Modern Art in New York), and even three times on the Ed Sullivan show!

But still this is only part of this amazing story, which ‘spiritually’ revolves around 11 Rue Jean de Beaumais, the brothers ‘Atelier’ in the Latin Quarter of Paris, which, as well as the focal point for the design and construction of the instruments, also became (and remains), a famous meeting place for artists, musicians and philosophers from all over the world!

CD TRACKLISTINGS:

Music composed and performed on Les Sculptures Sonores by:
Daniel Ouzounoff, Jacques Lasry, Bernard Baschet, Michel Deneuve, Toru Takemitsu, Malcolm Ball

1. Marche (2.50) (Ouzounoff)
2. Paludisme (3.14) (J.Lasry)
3. Cosmonotie (5.45) (J.Lasry)
4. Danse du Cristal No.2 (1.58) (J.Lasry)
5. Chronophage 2 (17.10) (J.Lasry)
7. Emprunte de Figures Impressionnistes 1st Mvt. (4.48) (M.Deneuve)
8. extract from Seasons for percussion and tape (6.40)
   (T.Takemitsu), (M.Ball percussion)
9. Le vol des Flamants (2.39) (M.Deneuve)
10. Laudes & Annonce aux Bergers
   from La Vie de Marie (1.45) (M.Deneuve)
11. Comme une autre Réalité from La Vie de Marie (3.17) (M.Deneuve)