

# Speaking of Music: John Adams, 1985

## Identifier

SOM.1985.03.28

## Description

San Francisco Bay Area based composer, John Adams, is certainly one of the most successful American composers of his generation. His compositions are regularly performed all over the world. In March of 1986, the San Francisco Symphony, where he was Composer-in-Residence at the time, performed the world premiere of his “Harmonielehre”, which was commissioned by the Symphony. In this program, Charles Amirkhanian interviews the composer in front of a live audience as part of the San Francisco Exploratorium’s Speaking of Music series. Recorded on March 28, 1985, Adams discusses the process of composing such a major work as “Harmonielehre”. He also shares his early experience in writing “Nixon in China”, an opera produced in collaboration with theater director Peter Sellars and librettist Alice Goodman. Adams’ music has the shimmering quality of repetitive, or minimal music, plus the drama of the most romantic. (from KPFA Folio)

## Musical Selections

Harmonielehre [1st movement] (1984-85) -- Harmonielehre: The Anfortas Wound [2nd movement] (1984-85) -- Harmonielehre: Meister Eckhardt & Quackie [3rd movement] (1984-85) -- Light Over Water [excerpt] (1983) -- Harmonielehre [excerpt from 3rd movement] (1984-85)

## Artists

San Francisco Symphony Orchestra (features)

Amirkhanian, Charles (features)

Adams, John, 1947- (features)

De Waart, Edo (features)