Artist: **SYLVAIN CHAUVEAU**  
Album: *Politique du silence*  
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Minority Records is releasing a unique boxset *Politique du silence* with three early albums from Sylvain Chauveau, French composer of minimalist neoclassical music.

*“When I made my first albums as a composer, I was obsessed with minimalism, and this quote from the film director Robert Bresson summed up my state of mind. I set myself three principles: 1) Use silence as a starting point, 2) Only add sound when it's absolutely essential, 3) Don't imitate the Anglo-Saxon musicians I admired, but draw on the musical culture of my country, France which lead me to listen intensively to Satie, Debussy and Ravel.”* Chauveau explains the background to his work.

The collection *Politique du silence* contains the recordings of *Des plumes dans la tête* (2004), *Un autre Décembre* (2003) and *Nocturne impalpable* (2001) on coloured 180 gram vinyls. The cover features artwork by French photographer Valéry Lorenzo.

*“When I discovered the simple and powerful black and white pictures by Valéry Lorenzo, in the 90s, I immediately fell in love with them. We became good friends and since then I ask him to let me use one of his photos for most of my album covers, or to make my portrait for press shots. It has become a real collaboration, music and images, for more than 25 years. It was then logical to ask him again for the cover of this boxset, like a gentle reflection on my piano and strings era.It's a true honor for me to see my early music recollected, repackaged, remastered after all this time. Which gives me hope that this music, in which I've put all my soul and heart during the years 2001 to 2003, is maybe not forgotten yet.”* Chauveau himself adds of his collaboration with Valéry Lorenzo.

*Nocturne impalpable* and *Un autre Décembre* were re-issued by Minority Records in 2014 and 2015 and both titles completely sold out. This year’s release also includes the album *Des plumes dans la tête* in its world premiere on vinyl.

*Nocturne Impalpable* is a world of minimalism, abstraction, and contemporary rendition of classical music with variations for the piano, clarinet, strings, and accordion which are often compared to the compositions of composers Harold Budd and Claude Debussy. Here, Chauveau partially reveals his versatility as a composer by connecting electronic elements, noises, and ambient planes with monumental strings and piano preludes. The album of piano variations *Un autre Décembre* is interspersed with field recordings and electronic noises. The inspiration for the recording of the album and for its name was the song *Jaurès* by the Belgian singer and composer Jacques Brel. This song tells the story of the grandparents’ generation who toiled in the mines. *“Comfort and health won’t protect our generation from sadness and discontent. We also live through winter times, even if these are slightly warmer due to the current climate.”* An album of 20 short instrumental sketches with several delicate intermezzos for the piano, string quartet, and the clarinet, *Des plumes dans la tête*, was composed for the eponymous film by director Thomas de Thier.

The boxset *Politique du silence* is being released in two editions: a standard version and a limited version of 50 accompanied by a numbered and signed large-format photograph by Valéry Lorenzo. The limited edition will be available only through the Minority Records e-shop.

Sylvain Chauveau was born in 1971 in the French town of Bayonne and currently lives in Barcelona. His extensive discography of mainly meditative neo-classical recordings for the music labels FatCat, Sub Rosa, Sonic Pieces, and Flau is enriched by several collaborations and his participation in the Ensemble 0, Arca, and On projects. Chauveau has also composed many film soundtracks as well as music for the theatre. He has presented his works in Prague several times, most recently in the spring of 2024 at the Spectaculare festival. His compositions get tens of millions of streams on streaming services, and he’s been called the French king of minimalism.