



SONO  
MARTIN

# Escape Rites

Austin Wulliman | JACK Quartet

1. The Late Edition *Austin Wulliman*

2. Lost One *Austin Wulliman*

3. Escape Rites *Austin Wulliman*

4-6. Live News *Austin Wulliman*

I. SYSTEM NOTES

II. como se vive (ii)

III. Live News

7. Totem Ancestor *John Cage*

*Arranged & Adapted by Austin Wulliman*

*Escape Rites* is in six continuous movements:

1. Power Switch
2. Wa(l)king
3. Escape Rite
4. Etude X: a table of contents
5. NOTNA: the crystal
6. el lago de los valores

Produced by Austin Wulliman and Ryan Streber

Recorded and Edited by Ryan Streber at

Oktaven Audio, Mt. Vernon, NY

December 16, 2024 and January 16, 2025

Mixed by Austin Wulliman

Mastered by Daniel Shores

Artwork by Alex Sopp

Photography by Shervin Lainez (JACK Quartet)  
and Anneliese Varaldiev (Austin Wulliman)

Liner Notes by Austin Wulliman

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and Alex Sopp for supporting me in every way.

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Pressed between bodies heaving to the pulse. The room inside the drum: each of us within its envelope. Sent elsewhere.  
Stamped to distant locales but together in this resonating box. My wrists were broken.  
My mind screwed on tight.

I wake next to a reflecting pool. An inlet. The water here is cool, shaded by trees that lean in to listen,  
swaying lightly with the gentle breeze, the hairs on my neck alive. I start my own religion here.

But I ask of the sea: long to see its waves crashing. As I approach, the blue-green colors of my oasis dull to a metallic blur.  
The wind a knife's edge into my bleared eyes. From below the surface, shafts of artificial light emerge. Power indicators of  
unseen machines from another time, rising endlessly...narrow spotlights pushing into the sky. My heart quickens.  
These climbing pixels build a hard-edged latticework of digital snow, blinding me.

I try to tune it. I look for the one of one. No wiser, I exhale and step into a clearing among the trees: an orderly garden  
path. I pace slowly among the carefully selected native plants...am I yet awake? Each turn reveals that these rows lead into  
a deep forest. The roots intertwine with a soil rich in jumbled wiring, broken monitors, cables to outdated devices.

The path opens suddenly onto an outcropping above the sea. From this new vantage, each square of color in the water  
pollutes its surface with 8-bit splendor. I spin back into the forest, the roots and limbs now formed of telephone cords,  
drive thru bank tubes, and strings of LED lights. They whirl me into a dance:  
a rite of doubt and self-abdication.

Awakening from the depths of this wood: a giant stone head. Looming. Impassive. Its face in a half-smile of cool knowing.  
Its surface like a freshly cut tree trunk, brindled with geological age and the scars of its removal from the earth. I am lifted  
up and held against it: a familiar texture, its rough beard streaked with aquamarine moss. A deep calm comes over me: of  
the kind one feels when giving in to the weight of a midday slumber or a powerful drug.  
A kept beast that loves its strict, heavy-handed trainer.

Below this effigy, an entry to the junkyard earth. I walk myself dutifully down the mossy stairs to my resting place,  
each step echoing with a memory of an imagined golden age.

"Activity involving in a single process the many, turning them, even though some seem to be opposites, towards oneness,  
contributes to a good way of life." - John Cage

Violinist, composer and educator Austin Wulliman embodies the imagined and empathizes with the absurd through  
sounds both familiar and radical, telling stories with a limitless passion for tuning cries from every corner of the human  
capacity to hear. He is a member of JACK Quartet, called "the nation's most important quartet" by the *New York Times*  
and has been praised as a "gifted, adventuresome violinist" by the *Chicago Tribune*. Through in-depth collaboration with  
performers and composers working in a panoply of aesthetic realms, Austin searches daily for the violin's voice in today's  
musical world.

Austin's debut album as composer *The News From Utopia* was released in 2023, which Austin wrote, recorded and  
mixed himself. His works have been performed in concert with pianist Conrad Tao at Miller Theater, by guitarist Alec  
Goldfarb at the Darmstadt Ferienkurse and Brooklyn's Roulette Intermedium, and frequently by JACK Quartet. With

JACK, his works have been performed at such venues as the  
Melbourne Recital Centre, Carnegie Hall Summer Stage, Lincoln  
Center, and the Pierre Boulez Saal with upcoming performances  
at Wigmore Hall, the Pittsburgh Microtonal Music Festival, and  
Musikkollegium Winterthur, among others.

As an interpreter, Austin has played in such renowned venues  
as the Berlin Philharmonie, the Elbphilharmonie, Carnegie Hall,  
and the Wiener Konzerthaus, and featured on such festivals as  
Tanglewood, Ojai, Spoleto, and Lucerne. Work with JACK has  
included premieres by John Luther Adams, Chaya Czernowin,  
Philip Glass, Georg Friedrich Haas, Clara Iannotta, George Lewis,  
Tyshawn Sorey and John Zorn, as well as collaborating with  
the likes of Barbara Hannigan, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Helmut  
Lachenmann, Igor Levit, Julia Wolfe, and leading a chamber  
orchestra of members of the Berlin Philharmonic. He has received  
awards from Musical America ("2019 Ensemble of the Year" JACK  
Quartet), Chamber Music America's Michael Jaffee Visionary  
Award in 2024, and was presented with Lincoln Center's Avery  
Fisher Career Grant in 2018.

Equally in demand as an educator, Austin serves on faculty at the  
Mannes School of Music, where JACK is Quartet in Residence.

He has taught violin and musicianship on faculty at the Banff  
Centre for the Arts, the Lucerne Festival Academy, and the  
University of Chicago. Additionally, he has given guest instruction  
and presentations at such institutions as the Curtis Institute,  
Juilliard School, Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Connect, New World  
Symphony, University of Michigan and Northwestern University.







