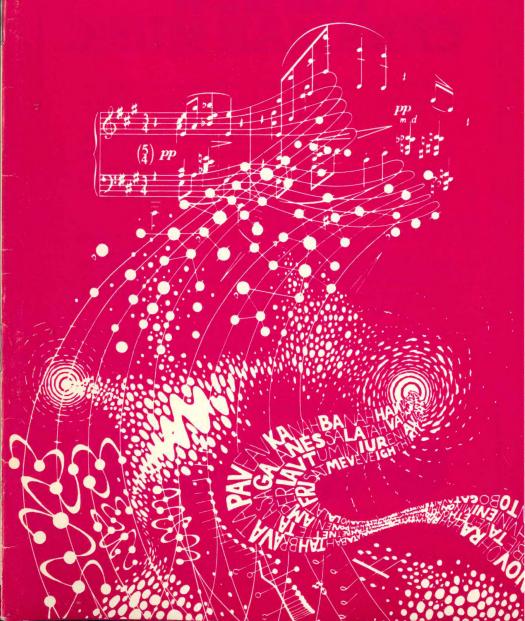
NECD MUSIC CONCERTS 1979-80



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CAPAC is the Composers, Authors, and Publishers Association of Canada. It operates quietly, more or less out of sight, but it's one of the most important musical organizations in the country.

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neco music concerts

ROBERT AITKEN, artistic director

presents

HARRISON BIRTWISTLE and NORTON FELDNAN

walter hall february 23, 1980 at 8:30 pm

Programme

Harrison Birtwistle

Carmen Arcadiae Mechanicae Perpetuum

ROBERT AITKEN, flute HARRY SARGOUS, oboe BARRY THOMSON, clarinet JAMES McKAY, bassoon GEORGE STIMPSON, French horn MICHAEL MALONE, trumpet JOHN DOWDEN, trombone ADELE ARMIN, violin FUJIKO IMAJISHI, violin PAUL ARMIN, viola PETER SCHENKMAN, cello PETER MADGETT, double bass MARC WIDNER, electric piano BEVERLEY JOHNSTON, marimba HARRISON BIRTWISTLE, conductor

Why Patterns?

ROBERT AITKEN, flute MORTON FELDMAN, piano JAN WILLIAMS, percussion

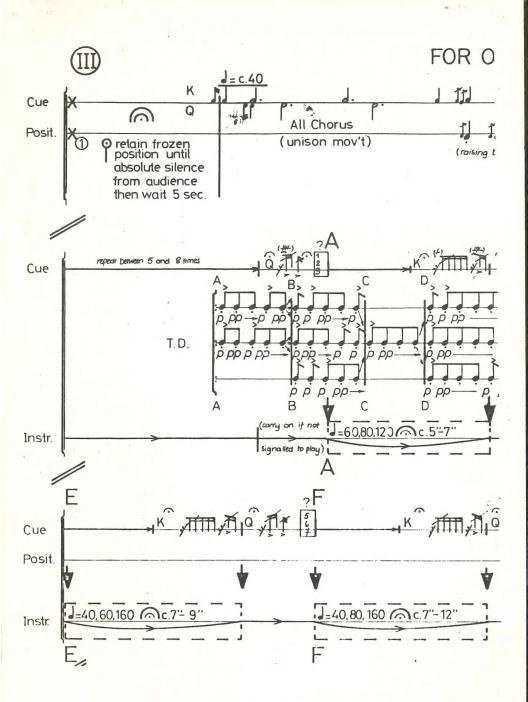
INTERMISSION

Harrison Birtwistle

Morton Feldman

For O, For O, the Hobbyhorse is Forgot: 6 percussionists

RUSSELL HARTENBERGER BOB BECKER JOHN WYRE BEVERLEY JOHNSTON DAVID KENT JOHN BROWNELL



.

Notes

HARRISON BIRTWISTLE (b.1934)

Carmen Arcadiae Mechanicae Perpetuum

This piece with its fanciful title is dedicated to my friends, the London Sinfonietta, on the occasion of their 10th Anniversary.

The piece is by way of a homage to Paul Klee and the title is a fantasy contrivance of a title he could have invented. It consists of six musical mechanisms which are juxtaposed many times without any form of transition. The dynamics of the piece have a time scale independent to that of the mechanisms, creating an independent dynamic life of their own. This process is also applied to the registers of the piece.

For O, For O, the Hobbyhorse is Forgot

"For O, For O" was written after working on Hamlet and with the dumb show in mind, but only in mind, for this piece does not intend to characterize or to play out the psychological drama. Rather, it is a ceremony, a ritual, a passage.

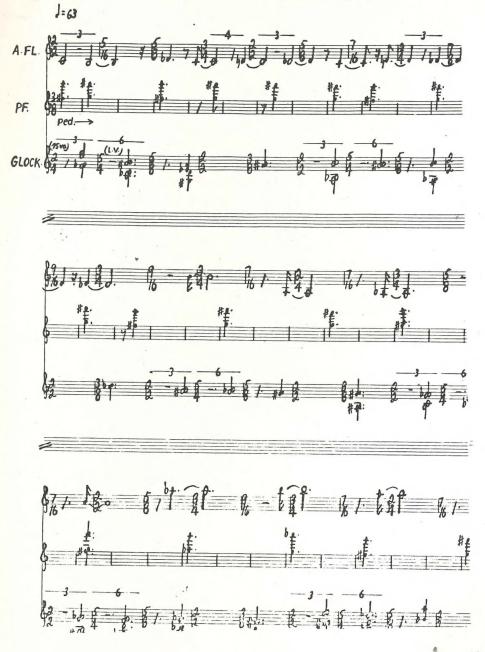
Four players form a chorus whose material is homogeneous, built on ostinati and which is essentially concerned with the articulation of long periods of time. This material is thrown into high relief by the remaining two players named King and Queen. These two serve to punctuate and therefore define time passing. Their aural gestures are always definite (big bold strokes) and generate a corresponding definition of gesture in visual terms.

Harrison Birtwistle

**

N.B. Notes are not included for WHY PATTERNS by Morton Feldman.

WHY PATTERNS?



HARRISON BIRTWISTLE -

Of time, music's most precious commodity, Birtwistle has said: "Music is the one medium where Time can transcend itself more than anything else. With poetry you are always up against language and meaning - in theatre toowhile with painting you're up against the frame, which limits the size and scale. Time scale in music is something which has nothing to do with the length of a piece - and new concepts of Time are my main compositional preoccupation."

Among the English composers a generation or so behind Britten and Tippett, HARRISON BIRTWISTLE looms large as a contributor to virtually all media involving music. A frequent visitor on this side of the Atlantic, he was born in Accrington, Lancashire in 1934. He began his musical studies with the clarinet, turning later to composition after studies at the Royal Manchester College of Music and at the Royal Academy in London. Upon graduation he was appointed Music Director at Cranborne Chase School near Salisbury. In 1966 he was awarded a Harkness International Fellowship which took him to the U.S. for two years, spending the first as Visiting Fellow at Princeton University. In 1973 he returned to the U.S. again when he was appointed Cornell Visiting Professor at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Birtwistle is currently a music director of the new National Theatre in London and commutes to Skye, a small island in northern Scotland, where he lives with his family.

MORTON FELDMAN ~

"The attention demanded by Morton Feldman's music - so low that it almost cannot be heard - is so uniform that it suggests the idea of a surface. In this simple fact there are large implications. One knows where the sounds are coming from, even though one cannot quite focus on it. "Where" is presented as an idea. Sounds do not progress, but merely heap up and accumulate in the same place. ... The music then is haunted by the idea of a grid that does not exist. What is offered is not just music in time, but a new idea of time." Brian O'Doherty MORTON FELDMAN was born in New York City in 1926. He studied piano and composition before his crucial meeting with John Cage at the age of 24. This began an artistic association important to music in the U.S. in the 1950's. Also in the circle were composers Earle Brown, Christian Wolff and pianist David Tudor. Feldman was close to many of the abstract, expressionist painters in New York in the 1950's and from these associations he shaped the unmistakable principles on which his music is based.

After forays into the innovatory field of indeterminacy and graphic notation, Mr. Feldman has now returned to strict notation. It is essentially unrhetorical music, exploring the borders of sound and silence in an attempt to leave time and sound "undisturbed by the act of composition.

Mr. Feldman is currently the Edgar Varèse Professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo and is also Director of the Center for Creative and Performing Arts.

NEXT CONCERT: Saturday, March 29 at 8:30 p.m. PHILIP GLASS and his ensemble

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Tonight's concert is being recorded by the CBC for future broadcast on "Two New Hours" which begins at 8:05 p.m. Sunday, March 2.

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NEW MUSIC CONCERTS gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Canada Council, the Ontario Arts Council, the Municipality of Toronto and the Toronto Arts Council.

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