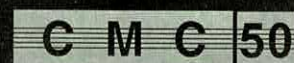


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New Music Concerts presents

Jonathan Harvey

Robert Aitken flute David Swan piano

Fujiko Imajishi solo violin

Friday March 12, 2010 • Betty Oliphant Theatre

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Betty Oliphant Theatre
404 Jarvis Street
8:00 pm Concert

New Music Concerts presents

Jonathan Harvey

Robert Aitken flute **David Swan** piano

Fujiko Imajishi solo violin

Programme:

Geoffrey Palmer

Reconciliation (2002)

Fujiko Imajishi violin

Jonathan Harvey

Run Before Lightning (2004)

Robert Aitken flute | **David Swan** piano

Barrie Gavin

Towards and Beyond (2009)

Documentary (48')

Please join us in the lobby following the concert for a reception

"Every Jew that we can lay our hands on is to be destroyed now, without exception"

— Himmler, Auschwitz, 1941

"Every member of that suicide bomber's family must be killed"

— Israeli at scene of bus bombing, 5th June 2002

And so the pattern of hatred and violence goes on. This piece, written in the summer of this year, explores the notion of reconciliation at a musical level. It takes a handful of musical ideas, all related but stylistically perhaps incompatible, and tries to work them into a unified whole. It is, I suppose, a kind of a prayer that something similar can happen "out there".

— Geoffrey Palmer, September 2002

Jonathan Harvey

Run Before Lightning (2004)

Born in Warwickshire in 1939, **Jonathan Harvey** was a chorister at St Michael's College, Tenbury and later a major music scholar at St John's College, Cambridge. He gained doctorates from the universities of Glasgow and Cambridge and (on the advice of Benjamin Britten) also studied privately with Erwin Stein and Hans Keller. He was a Harkness Fellow at Princeton (1969-70).

An invitation from Boulez to work at IRCAM in the early 1980s has so far resulted in eight realisations at the Institute, and two for the Ensemble Intercontemporain, including the celebrated tape piece *Mortuos Plango, Vivos Voco*, *Bhakti* for ensemble and electronics, and String Quartet No.4, with live electronics. Harvey has also composed for most other genres, orchestra and chamber as well as works for solo instruments, many widely-performed unaccompanied works for choir and three operas.

Harvey is now in constant demand from a host of international organisations, attracting commissions far into the future, and his music is extensively played and toured by the major ensembles of our time (Musikfabrik, Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Intercontemporain, ASKO, Nieuw Ensemble of Amsterdam and Ictus Ensemble, to name but a few). Some 150-200 performances are given or broadcast each year and about 100 recordings of his music are issued on CD. He has honorary doctorates from the universities of Southampton, Sussex, Bristol, Birmingham and Huddersfield, is a Member of Academia Europaea, and in 1993 was awarded the prestigious Britten Award for composition. In 2007 he was awarded the Giga-Hertz Prize for a lifetime's work in electronic music. He published two books in 1999, on inspiration and spirituality respectively.

Harvey was Professor of Music at Sussex University between 1977 and 1993 where he is currently an Honorary Professor. He was Professor of Music at Stanford University (US) between 1995 and 2000, is an Honorary Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge and was a Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Study in Berlin in 2009.

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The piece was prompted by the experience of exposure to close lightning, and running fast before it in wild exhilaration, aware that it could kill at any moment.

The flute, with its vivid connection to turbulent storm-wind, is also close to human breath, breath in emotion. The acoustic structure of the flute's tube determines how the turbulence is channelled into musical sound; and canonic melodies channel further the musical sound's embodiment as structure.

I would like to thank Sophie Cherier, Isabelle Carre and Tony Robb for advice on the flute; and Claude Samuel for suggesting I write for the distinguished Concours Rampal.

— Jonathan Harvey

Film maker **Barrie Gavin** was born in 1935 in London. He joined the BBC as an assistant film editor in 1961. With the opening of BBC 2 in 1964 he began to principally direct programmes about music. In 1966 his fascination with contemporary music brought him into contact with the French composer and conductor Pierre Boulez. Over the next 40 years they collaborated on a series of analytical documentaries on the founding fathers of 20th century music: Schoenberg, Berg, Webern, Bartók, Stravinsky, Ives, Varèse, Messiaen and of course Boulez himself. Since the 1970s Gavin has specialised in portraits of contemporary composers: Roberto Gerhard, Luciano Berio, Luigi Nono, George Benjamin, Karlheinz Stockhausen, John Adams, Sofia Gubaidulina and many others. Although the vast majority of Gavin's work has concentrated on music, there have also been films on literature and the visual arts. "Jonathan Harvey – Towards and Beyond" debuted at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival in 2009.

Harvey is of course unusual in that the source of his music is avowedly spiritual and metaphysical. This film seeks to explore his musical and philosophical world by means of a journey outwards from his own thoughts and from his actual workroom. The portrait works through a series of metaphors and analogies. Some of them derive from the landscape of southern England where he lives. Others range far in time, space and history – Christian and Buddhist imagery, electronic manipulation, even views from the Hubble telescope in space. The journey of the film is by necessity provisional, marking the development of his music so far.

Artists

Japanese-born **Fujiko Imajishi** has made her home in Canada since 1968. After studies with Lorand Fenyves, Ruggiero Ricci, Franco Gulli and the Hungarian Quartet she went on to win both the Montreal and Toronto Symphony Competitions. Imajishi is concertmaster of the Esprit Orchestra and until 2009 was concertmaster of the National Ballet of Canada. Imajishi is a founding member and first violinist of the string quartet Accordes and has enjoyed a long association with New Music Concerts with whom she performed Lutoslawski's solo works for violin and orchestra *Partita* and *Chain II* conducted by the composer, which were later released on CD. She has also given the Canadian premiere of Ligeti's Violin Concerto in 1999. In 2002 she performed *Anthèmes* for violin solo in the presence of composer Pierre Boulez on the occasion of the presentation of the International Glenn Gould Prize. In 2006 Imajishi gave the North American premiere of the violin concerto *Vortex* by Raminta Serksnyte with New Music Concerts and in 2008 the first Canadian performance of two solo violin works by Elliott Carter, which were also included on a CD to mark his hundredth birthday. [Naxos 8.559614]

World renowned Canadian flutist, composer and conductor **Robert Aitken** has been honoured with the Order of Canada and is a Chevalier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France). In 1970, having previously served as principal flute for both the Vancouver and Toronto Symphony Orchestras, Aitken embarked on a solo career that has taken him to virtually every corner of the globe. He has more than 50 recordings to his credit and such notables as John Cage, George Crumb, Elliott Carter, Toru Takemitsu, Mauricio Kagel, Roger Reynolds, Toshio Hosokawa, Gilles Tremblay, Bruce Mather, John Beckwith and R. Murray Schafer have dedicated works to him. In 2003 he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Flute Association (USA). In 2004, he retired as Professor für Flöte at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg, Germany, a position he had held for 16 years.

In 2009 Aitken was the recipient Canada's largest arts award, the prestigious Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts. As a composer, he holds Bachelor and Masters degrees from the University of Toronto and all of his works are published by Universal Edition, Salabert, Ricordi and Peer Music. Robert Aitken was director of the Banff Centre Winter Program in Music, founder and artistic director of Music Today, Music at Shawnigan and co-founder, with Norma Beecroft, of New Music Concerts which he has directed since its inception in 1971.

Saskatoon native **David Swan** gained national exposure at the age of sixteen as winner of the first Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition for the Performance of Canadian Music. After completing doctoral studies at the University of Indiana, he settled in Toronto, where he has freelanced continuously since 1986. His varied activities include ensemble and solo performances, accompaniment, recording and teaching, and he retains a special interest in 20th century repertoire. He served for many years as organist of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Toronto. As a pianist he has performed frequently with New Music Concerts and is a featured soloist on NMC's Naxos CD+DVD "Elliott Carter 100th Anniversary Release".

Our next concerts:

Saturday April 10, 2010

A Tribute to Gilles Tremblay

Betty Oliphant Theatre, 404 Jarvis St.

Aventa Ensemble | William Linwood, director

Music by ♣ Gilles Tremblay ♣ Dániel Péter Biró ♣ Wolf Edwards

Friday May 28, 2010

Brian's Picks

The Music Gallery, 197 John Street • NMC Ensemble • Brian Current, direction

Music by ♣ Nicole Lizée, Oliver Schneller, Bruno Mantovani,

Fabien Levy, Enno Poppe, ♣ Analia Llugdar