3-12-2009

Ensemble Green

ensembleGREEN

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Spring 2009 Event Highlights

ART:
Visual Urgency with HOW Self-Promo and AIGA Get Out the Vote poster retrospective ............ Feb 2 – Mar 12
BA and BFA Student Shows .................................................. Mar 16 – May 1
Departmental Exhibition .......................................................... May 11 – 15

THEATRE:
Trojan Women ..................................................................... Mar 20 – 22; 25 – 28
Psycho Beach Party ............................................................... Apr 24 – May 2

MUSIC:
University Choir Home Concert ............................................ Feb 6
Ensemble-in-Residence in Concert: Ensemble Green ............... Feb 7
Visiting Artist: Sergei Babayan, piano .................................. Feb 10
Opera Chapman presents: La Divina and Signor Deluso by Pasatieri and Mozart's The Impresario ............. Apr 24 – 26
Sholund Scholarship Concert: Shubert's Mass in E-flat Major, D. 950 and Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, Op. 80 ......... May 9

DANCE:
Works in Progress ................................................................. Feb 28
Concert Intime ....................................................................... Mar 26 – 28
Spring Dance Concert .......................................................... May 13 – 16

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CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
Conservatory of Music

ensembleGREEN

Ensemble-in-Residence at Chapman University
Conservatory of Music
2008-09 Academic Year

March 12, 2009 • 8:00 P.M.
Salmon Recital Hall
Holomovement

I. Gagak
II. The Garden of Irrational Creatures
III. Dinosaur Music

Paul Sherman – oboe, Eric km Clark – violin, Kira Blumberg – viola,
Tom Peters - bass, Susan Svrcek - piano

Program

Holomovement

Sean Heim
b. 1967

I. Gagak
II. The Garden of Irrational Creatures
III. Dinosaur Music

Trilogy

Jeffrey Holmes
b. 1971

I. Nastrond
II. Nidhogg
III. Niflheim

Paul Sherman – oboe, Luke Fitzpatrick – violin, Tom Peters - bass,
Susan Svrcek, Dzovig Markarian – piano, Nick Terry – percussion

Holomovements (2007) was written in dedication to my first composition teacher and
dear friend Harold Oliver. When I worked with him as a student, Harry always knew
exactly what to suggest to aid in the expansion of my horizons. Whether it was music,
literature, art, religion, philosophy, science etc., he always guided me to the right
materials. All things seemed equally important and interconnected to him – a way of
viewing our world and the human condition that I have continued to explore throughout
my life. And it was this avenue of thought that led me to David Bohm’s theory of
implicate order just around the time the piece began to gestate in my daily thoughts.
Bohm’s premise of undivided wholeness, that each “part” of the universe enfolds the
movement of the whole, and therefore has an affect on the entire system, resonated
strongly with my aesthetic and philosophical beliefs. It seemed fitting to contemplate
the universe and its inhabitants in this way when setting out to write a piece for my
friend.

Each of the three movements of the work is based on conversations/experiences I
had with Harry over the years. The first movement, Gagaku, was inspired by the
elegant colotomic structure of the ancient Japanese court music tradition. In my
interpretation of the form there are 5 smaller cycles that revolve inside of one large
cycle, which accelerates or “collapses” as the movement progresses. After this
cycle reaches its point of maximum density, it then expands rapidly toward the
movement’s final event. Each instrument within this larger cycle has the
possibility of relaying 5 different types of events along with prescribed silences
between them - each of these events/silences also expands and contracts by
varying degrees.

The second movement, The Garden of Irrational Creatures, evokes the strong
memories I have of helping out in Harry’s garden over the years. Many of the
rhythmic patterns and durations in the movement are determined by the results of
an iterative equation starting with $H_1 = .707170$ - the number is then multiplied by
itself and the integer dropped after each iteration. The result is a series of
irrational numbers in which the small “error” of having $.707170$ instead of $.707070$
(a number that would lead to repetition after only 17 iterations) is rapidly
amplified.

The third movement, Dinosaur Music, has its origins in a conversation I once had
with Harry about the cranial cavities of dinosaurs and their ability to amplify
sounds. He had several quite specific ideas of how to interpret this into musical
contexts – but I use none of those here. Instead, I focused on what may have been
the instincts and anxieties of both predator and prey in the age of these fascinating
creatures.

Trilogy (2008) is a series of chamber works that each depict a different region of
the Scandinavian mythological underworld. These three works all share motivic
themes, rhythmic cycles, large-scale forms, and dramatic content.

Nastrond. The shore of corpses, the place in the underworld will be as vile as it is
vast; all its doors will face north. Its walls and roof will be made of wattled
snakes, their heads facing inward, blowing so much poison that it runs in rivers.

1. The Sea
2. The Shore
3. The Blood
Nidhogg. One root dug deep into Niflheim and under that root the spring Hvergelmir seethed and growled like water in a cauldron. Down there the dragon Nidhogg ripped apart corpses. Between mouthfuls, he sent the squirrel Ratatosk whisking up the trunk from deepest earth to heaven; it carried insults to the eagle who sat on the topmost bough, with a hawk perched on its brow. And Nidhogg was not content with corpses; he gnawed at the root of Yggdrasill itself, trying to loosen what was firm and put an end to the eternal.

1. The Forrest
2. The Lake
3. The Dragon

Niflheim. A place of bitter cold and unending night; its citadel is Hel, a place with towering walls and forbidding gates presided over by a hideous monster also named Hel, who is half white and half black, half alive and half dead, and who rules the world of the dead. Evil men pass through Hel to die again in Niflheim.

1. The Freezing Mist
2. The Eleven Rivers
3. The Darkness

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