



Currents
Art & Music

News Release, October 2nd, 2007

100 Streams Flowing in Confluence

Two Music Events Feature Chinese-American Composer Chou Wen-chung and His Mentor, French Composer Edgard Varèse

Currents – Art and Music will present The Beijing New Music Ensemble in a concert on October 14 in Huantie, Beijing, featuring music by internationally renowned composers **Chou Wen-chung** and **Edgard Varèse**, with comments by Chou and illustrated by calligraphers. On the same day, Alliance Française will provide a unique opportunity to hear **Chou Wen-chung** describe his music and that of his mentor: visionary and iconoclast **Edgard Varèse** at a composer presentation in its auditorium.

For decades, Chou was a teacher, having founded The Center for US-China Arts Exchange in 1978, at Columbia University. As head of its music composition program, he taught Asian-American composers Chinary Ung, Tan Dun, Zhou Long, and Chen Yi, among many others.

Chou met Varèse in 1949, becoming his disciple until the end of his life in 1965, and was instrumental in the recording of “Edgard Varèse -The Complete Works”, which included many of the pieces he had revised and edited.

“Chinese civilization should be one of the mainstreams in the future... Even more urgent is the need for developing a fresh perception for composing based on knowledge of our own cultural evolution and expectations for its future,” said Chou in a 2003 speech “Music: ‘Commercialism and Globalization’”.

“Varèse's concept of music as ‘organized sound’ and of sound as ‘living matter’, which itself is of historic consequence, is again, a modern western parallel of a pervasive Chinese concept that each single tone is a musical entity in itself, that musical meaning lies intrinsically in the tones

themselves.” (from Chou’s paper “Asian Music Today? What is It?” for a conference in 1996.)

Event Details

The Program for the concert includes *Streams, Windswept Peaks* and the percussion quartet *Echoes from the Gorge*, by Chou Wen-chung, all inspired by classical Chinese culture, particularly calligraphy, and *Density 21.5* for solo flute, and *Intégrales* for eleven wind instruments and four percussion by Varèse.

Sunday, October 14th, 2007

11:00 Alliance Française de Pekin Composer presentation
18 Gongti Xilu
Guangcai Guojigongyu
Chaoyang District, 100020

15:00 Currents – Art and Music Concert
Huantie – Beijing
Shuttle vans will leave from Jiang Hu
Restaurant at 798 Dashanzi, from 14::00 – 14:45

About Currents – Art and Music

Currents – Art and Music strives to increase appreciation for and understanding of newly created work, presenting this concert free of charge, to encourage attendance by music students, composers and audience for new music.

About the Beijing New Music Ensemble

BNME is China’s only independent group dedicated to performing contemporary Chinese music, and its core members are comprised of the latest generation of award-winning international classical musicians.

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