

# Music history M1 June

## A few words on...

### Composers in post-war Germany

#### **Stockhausen :**

- electronic music pionner
- aleatoric techniques into serialism
- work on spatialization
- important figure of darmstadt school
- theoretical writings
- various genres such as miniatures, solo, songs, chamber, choral, orchestral, operas.
- famous pieces such as Klavierstücke (piano pieces), Kontra-Punkte (dixtuor), Gesang der Jünglinge (electronic/concrete), Gruppen (for 3 orchestras), Zyklus Kontakte (solo percussion), Momente (cantata), Mikrophonie I (for 6 vocalists), Aus den Sieben Tagen Mantra (2 pianos and electronic), Tierkreis Inori (for soloist and orchestra), Licht (opera cycle)

#### **Kagel:**

- Left Argentina in the 50's because of dictature
- Post-modern style, i.e. humour, quotes, collage
- participant of Darmstadt school
- notation of theatrical instructions to the performers in the scores
- famous pieces: Staatsheater (ballet for non-dancers > stage work), Con Voce (trio silently mimes playing instruments), Match (tennis game for cellists with a percussionist as umpire)
- numerous conventional pieces for orchestra, chamber, films 1
- Filmmaker of "Ludwig van" where a reproduction of Beethoven studio is papered with sheet of music of Beethoven's pieces. The ost is a piano playing the music as it appears in each shot so we hear various bits of his pieces.

**Lachenmann:**

- Instrumentale concrete music
- Studied at Stuttgart and with Nono in Italy
- Advanced experimental techniques
- Famous pieces such as *Das Mädchen mit den Schwefelhölzern* (opera), *Schwankungen am Rand* (orchestral), *NUN* (id), *Mouvement* (ensemble), strings quartet (chamber), piano pieces
- Participated to Darmstadt
- Wrote articles, essays and lectures
- Pupil of Nono

**Rihm:**

- Musical director of the Institute of New Music and Media at the University of Karlsruhe
- Composer in residence at the Lucerne Festival and The Salzburg Festival
- *New Simplicity*
- Prolific composer (hundreds of works)
- Important works such as string quartets, *Die Hamletmaschine* (opera), song-cycles, *Deus Passus* (oratorio), concertos, *Vers une symphonie fleuve* (orchestral corpus), *Dionysos* (stage), *Rilke* (vocal work), *Et Lux* (choral)

**Composers in post-war Italy****Berio:**

- Electronic music pionner
- Married (and divorced) with the mezzo-soprano Cathy Berberian whom he wrote numerous pieces exploiting her voice
- Studied with Dalapiccola
- Attended Darmstadt
- Co-founded the Studio di fonologia musicale (invited Pousseur and Cage there)
- Electronic music periodical *Incontri Musicali*

- Composer in residence in Tanglewood on an invitation of Milhaud
- Taught at the Julliard School (NYC) and founded the Julliard ensemble
- Taught to Steve Reich among others
- Famous pieces such as *Thema* (first electroacoustic piece of history), *Sequenza* (solo instruments virtuoso exploring extended techniques), *Un re in ascolto* (stage), arrangements of big composers, *Circles* (chamber), *Folks songs* (ensemble), *Sinfonia* (orchestral)

### **Nono:**

- Anti-fascist composer, member of the Italian Resistance during WW2, member of the Italian Communist Party
- Famous works such as *Il Canto Sospeso* incorporating farewell letters written by political prisoners before execution where words are split into syllables exchanged between voices (choral), *Intolleranza 1960* with political slogans/poems/quotations from Brecht and Sartre (stage), *Al gran sole carico d'amore* which is a Marxism/communism history (stage), *Prometeo* (opera)
- serialism, collage, avant-garde
- Criticism of aleatoric music
- Brought his music into universities, trade-unions and factories where he gave lectures and performance
- Writings on music, art and politics

### **Romitelli:**

- Studied at the Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi in Milan and with Donatoni, then in Paris with Dufourt and Grisey
- Compositeur en recherche at IRCAM
- Famous works such as *An index of Metals*, *Professor Bad Trip* (ensemble), *Trash TV Trance* (electric guitar)
- Noise music

### **Scelsi:**

- Pioneer of spectralism
- Childhood in a rich and lonely life

- First exponent of dodecaphony in Italy
- Private lessons with Sallustio, then in Vienna with Klein (pupil of Schoenberg)
- Traveled a lot and met Cocteau and Virginia Woolf
- Organised concerts of contemporary works
- Psychological crisis after his women left him after the war that led him to Eastern spirituality and rejection of the notions of compositions in favour of sheer improvisation
- Personal compositional process by recording improvisation then transcribing and modifying in close collaboration with the performers
- Music means transcendental reality, and the artist is a mere intermediary
- Collaboration with Rzewski, Cage, Feldman, Brown
- Unknown during his career and later discovery
- Famous works such as *Quattro pezzi su una nota sola* (chamber orchestra), *Uaxuctum* (orchestral), *Ko-Tha* (guitar)

## Composers in post-war Hungary

### **Ligeti:**

- During WW2, Ligeti's musical education is interrupted to be sent in a labor brigade, and his family deported in a concentration camp whom his mother only survived.
- After WW2, Ligeti went on ethnomusicological research on Hungarian folk music
- Fled to Vienna when the Hungarian revolution was violently suppressed by the Soviet Army, and then Cologne
- Attended Darmstadt
- Worked in the Cologne Electronic Music Studio with Stockhausen and Koenig
- Famous works such as *Musica Ricercata* (piano), *Artikulation* (electronic), *Atmosphères* which is influenced by his electronics experiments/micropolyphony/ static but slowly evolving (orchestral), *Lux Aeterna* (choral), string quartets (chamber), cello concerto, *Ramifications* where two groups are tuned with a difference of a quarter tone and slide down toward the other as they play (ensemble), *Le Grand Macabre* with pastiche and consonants (anti-anti opera), *Continuum* (harpsichord), violin concerto, violin sonata

- Ligeti's music has been used in Kubrick's movies (2001, Shining, Eyes Wide Shut)

### **Kurtag:**

- Studied piano at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest, then composition
- Moved to Paris after the Hungarian uprising and studied with Deutsch, Messiaen and Milhaud
- Répétiteur at the National Philharmonia in Budapest and piano/chamber music teacher the Franz Liszt Academy
- Composer in residence at the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Konzerthaus Society and at the Ensemble InterContemporain
- Space, short pieces
- Famous pieces such as Stele (orchestral), chamber music, solo pieces, concertos, vocal music, choral...

## **Composers in post-war Poland**

### **Penderecki:**

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### **Lutoslawski:**

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## **Composers in URSS**

### **Ustvolaskaya:**

### **Schnittke:**

### **Gubaidulina:**

### **Pärt:**

## Composers in post-war Belgium

### **Boesmans:**

- Studied piano at the CRLG
- Self-taught composer
- Collaboration with Henri Pousseur (Centre de Recherches Musicales de Wallonie)
- Pianist in the Ensemble Musique Nouvelle
- Producer at the RTBF
- Composer in residence at La Monnaie in Bxl.
- Compositions including organ music (Fanfare II), film music (of filmmaker Boris Lehman), orchestral music (Conversions, Multiples), concerto (for violin, piano), chamber music (string quartets), operas (Reigen, Pinocchio)

### **Brewaeyts:**

- Studied with Ferneyhough and Xenakis
- Sound engineer for VRT and Klara
- Wrote an opera, symphonies, chamber music, vocal music, orchestral music.
- Orchestration of some piano pieces of Debussy
- Style between spectralism and romanticism

### **Pousseur:**

- Born in Malmedy
- Influenced by Boulez, Bruckner, medieval and Renaissance music, extra-European music.
- Teacher and director of CRLG from 1970 to 1988
- Created the Centre de recherches et de formation musicales de Wallonie (renamed Centre Henri Pousseur)
- Member of Darmstadt school

- Wrote theoretical books (*Fragments théorique I: sur la musique expérimentale*)
- Style serialism, mobile forms, aleatoric music
- Famous works such as *Votre Faust* (opera with a libretto of Butor), *Trois Visages de Liège* (electronic music), *Scambi* (id)

### **Goeyvaerts:**

- Studied composition in Paris with Milhaud and analysis with Messiaen
- Learn ondes martenot with Maurice Martenot
- Went to Darmstadt school and met there Stockhausen
- Interest (not lasting) in electronic music
- Style between serialism and minimalism
- Famous works such as *Aquarius* (opera), violin concerto, sonata for 2 piano op1, *Honneurs funèbres à la tête musicale d'Orphée* for 6 ondes martenot (chamber), n°5 *met zuivere tonen* (electronic), *stuke voor piano en tape* (electro-acoustic)

### **Bartholomé:**

- Studied piano at the Conservatory of Brussels
- Co-founded the Centre de Recherches et de Création Musicales de Wallonie with Pousseur
- Performed as a pianist and a conductor
- Composer in residence at the University Of Louvain
- Artistic director and conductor of the OPRL from 1977 to 1999
- Founded the ensemble *Musique Nouvelles*
- Wrote orchestral (*Harmonique*, 2 symphonies), chamber music (*Fin de Série*, 13 *Bagatelles*, *Rupture des Falaises*), vocal music (*Requiem*), electronic music (*Thyl Eulenspiegel*), opera (*Oedipe sur la route*, *La lumière Antigone*)

### **Rzewski :**

- Social and political themes
- Studied with Dallapiccola in Italy
- Co-founded *Musica Elettronica Viva*

- Professor of Composition at the CRLG
- Pianist virtuoso
- Pieces featuring improvisational elements
- Famous works such as The People United Will Never Be Defeated (piano), The Persians (stage), Une Breve Storia d'Estate (orchestral), Les Moutons de Panurge (chamber), Requiem (choral), Coming Together (vocal), Nanosonatas (piano), Zoologischer Garten (only electronic piece)

## **Composers in post-war Finland**

### **Kaija Saariaho:**

- Studied at the Sibelius Academy and at the Musichochschule with Ferneyhough
- Discovered electronic music at IRCAM
- Style spectral and serial
- Wrote operas
- Music more consonant now