

# Compositional Practices 1955-80

## Spring Term 2009

Robert Morris, Instructor

Class Times: Tues. Thur., 8:30—10:00 am

T-Th (Jan 13-15) Row derivation and form; time-point system and arrays. Babbitt *String Quartets 2 and 3*; **Schedule student reports presented at end of term.**

T-Th (Jan 20, Jan 22) Early Concrete/Electronic Music. (FAC 7129 LP 11371) Varèse, *Poem Electronique*, Cage, *Williams Mix*, San Francisco Tape Center.

T-Th-T (Jan 27, 29. Feb 3) Stockhausen, *Gesang der Jünglinge*, *Kontakte*, *Mantra*

Th (Feb 5) Davidowsky, *Synchronisms 6*.

T (Feb 10) Stockhausen, *Gruppen*.

Th-T (Feb 12, 17) Cage, *String Quartet*, *Lecture on Nothing*, *Concert for Piano and Orchestra*, *HSPCHD*, late works.

Th (Feb 19) Browne, *Available Forms I*; **PROJECT I DUE** (A short composition where (local) rhythm, and possibly other temporal dimensions are subject to formal procedures.)

T- (Feb 24) Feldman, graph pieces, *Last Pieces*, *Madam Press Died Last Week at 90*, *Palais de Mari*.

Th-T (Feb, 26 Mar 3) Xenakis, *Pithoprakta*, *Herma*; **LISTENING QUIZ I**, March 3.

Th (Mar 5) Penderecki, *Tren*; Ligeti, *Atmospheres*.

T (Mar 17) Ligeti, *Aventures, Chamber Concerto*.

Th (Mar 19) Notational Innovations: Karkoschka, *Das Schriftbild der Neuen Musik*, PNM (21/1 & 2), Stone, K., *Music Notation in the Twentieth Century: A Practical Guide Book*.

T (Apr 24) Open form, indeterminacy, improvisation (1960-70s).

Th (Apr 26) New Instrumental Resources. Crumb, *Vox Balaenae*.

T-Th (Apr 7, 9) Minimalism. Glass, *Music in Twelve Parts*, Reich, *Violin Phase, Piano Phase*, Frederic Rzewski *Les Moutons de Panurge*;  
**PROJECT II DUE** (A work for at least three players exploring new forms of notation, indeterminate procedures, and new instrumental resources)

T (Apr 14) Developments in Electronic Music: Synthesizers, Live-Electronics, and Computers. (1960-70s); **LISTENING QUIZ II**, April 24.

Last classes (Th-Th-T, Apr 16, 30, May 4) devoted to student reports. Each student chooses a current composer not presently associated with the Eastman School (or recently deceased) and provides an overview of his/her contributions to new music. Score and recording of (portions of) significant works should form the backbone of the report. Place the composer in his/her life and times, but avoid PR hype. Provide a reference-list of works, recordings, and writings about the composer. Do some musical analysis on passages from representative works. Assume your audience is a group of interested and sophisticated composers. Your talk should be organized well—**use handouts** and have any **recordings ready to play, cued**—and last just about **45 minutes**, no more or less.

Th (Apr 30) **PROJECT III DUE** (A work utilizing or reflecting the techniques of “minimalism.”)

Within W-Th-F (May 6-8) **FINAL EXAM** (three hours) during Exam Period.

**Recordings and Scores on Reserve**  
 (\* items will be on the listening quizzes — see below)

*Adams	Harmonielehre	CD 2992	M1045.A214 H28
*Andriessen	Da Staat	CD 4115	M1528.A573 S77 Folio
*Babbitt	Reflections for Piano and Tape	CD 5250	
*Berio	Sinfonia	CD 15778	M1528.B52 SS 1972
*Brown	Available Forms I	LP 9427	M1045 .B877A No.1, Folio
Brown	Four Systems	FAC 6787	M22 .B877F Folio
Cage	String Quartet	CD 8215	M452 .C131 1960
Cage	Sonatas and Interludes	CD 6016 CD 6899	M23 .C131s
* Cage	Concert for Piano and Orchestra	FAC 6787 CD 6016	M1010 C15 C6 1960
*Carter	String Quartet III	CD 3030	M452.C323 no.3
* Carter	Piano Concerto	CD 445	M1010.C323
Crumb	Vox balaenae	CD 13,337	M322.C956 V974 1972
*Davidowsky	Synchronism 6.	CD 5250	M25.D2498 S9 No.6
Feldman	Piece for four pianos	FAC 2725	
Feldman	Piano and String Quartet	CD 3587	F312.P58 1988.Folio
* Feldman	Madam Press died last week at ninety.	CD 2334	M985.F3125 M1
* Feldman	Palais de Mari	CD 5749	M25.F312 P15 1995
Lansky	Fantasies on a Poem by Thomas Campion	CD 4571	
Ligeti	Aventures	LP 29351	M1045.L723a
* Ligeti	Atmospheres	CD 1866	M1045.L723 A8 H63 Folio
* Ligeti	Chamber Concerto	CD 5505	M947.L723 K15 1974
*Penderecki	De Natura Sonoris	CD 7669	M1045.P397 N2
* Penderecki	Tren	CD 1848	M1145.P397T Folio
*Reich	Music for Eighteen Musicians	CD 2953	M1528.R347 M98 2000
* Reich	Octet (Eight Lines)	CD 4145	M1185.R347 O21 1979
*Rzewski	Les Moutons de Panurge	CD 16,200	M1470.R999 M934
*Stockhausen	Gruppen	CD 19,480	M1045.S864 G
* Stockhausen	Kontakte (with and without instruments)	CD 7655 CD 17152	M342 .S864K Folio M175E4 .S864K Folio

Stockhausen	Mantra	CD 3256	M214.s864 M29 Folio
* Stockhausen	Gesang der Jünglinge	CD 17152	ML96.5 .S864 no.1
*Subotnick	Touch	CD 1133	
* Subotnick	Sidewinder	CD 16359	
Takemitsu:	November Steps	CD 2652	M1040.T136 N 939 Folio
*Wolpe	String Quartet	CD 1658	M452.W866
*Wuorinen:	String Quartet	LP 20128	
*Varèse	Poeme Electronique	CD 2115	
*Xenakis:	Herma	CD 4635	M25.X5H
* Xenakis:	Pithoprakta	CD 249	M1045.X5P6 Folio
*Xenakis:	Mycenae-Alpha	CD 2115	

## Listening Test I

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* Cage	Concert for Piano and Orchestra	FAC 6787 CD 6016	M1010 C15 C6 1960
*Carter	String Quartet III	CD 3030	M452.C323 no.3
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* Subotnick	Sidewinder	CD 16359	
*Wolpe	String Quartet	CD 1658	M452.W866

*Wuorinen:	String Quartet	LP 20128	
*Varèse	Poeme Electronique	CD 2115	
*Xenakis:	Mycenae-Alpha	CD 2115	

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*Andriessen	Da Staat	CD 4115	M1528.A573 S77 Folio
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