

The Museum of Modern Art

SUMMERGARDEN 1996 AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Paris: New Music 1896-1996

Friday, August 2 and Saturday, August 3; Friday, August 9 and Saturday, August 10

The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden

Garden opens at 6:00 p.m. Concerts begin at 8:30 p.m.

SUMMERGARDEN, a series of free concerts in The Museum of Modern Art's Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden, continues on Friday, August 2 and Saturday, August 3 with a program of chamber music conducted by Joel Sachs. Two major works composed in the early part of this century -- Igor Stravinsky's *Concerto in E flat "Dumbarton Oaks"* and Erik Satie's *Relâche* -- will be performed, as well as contemporary works by Philippe Hersant and Tristan Murail.

Stravinsky's *Concerto in E flat*, commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss and completed in Paris in March 1938, was first performed at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. in May of that year.

Satie's *Relâche* was written for the Ballet Suedois, a progressive company that also commissioned scores by Maurice Ravel, Francis Poulenc, George Auric, Arthur Honegger, Cole Porter, and Darius Milhaud. The ballet, with scenery and decor by Dadaist poet Francis Picabia, premiered on November 29, 1924, and, like *Le Sacre du printemps* eleven years earlier, it provoked howls of protest. The complete ballet score is being presented at SUMMERGARDEN.

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Hersant's *Lebenslauf* (Personal Record), receiving its American premiere with soloist Shelly Watson, dates from 1992 and comprises six songs for soprano on texts by Friedrich Hölderlin. The composer, who was born in Rome in 1948, studied at the Paris Conservatory and won both the Nadia Boulanger Prize, which provided a two-year residency in Madrid, and the Prix de Rome, which included two years at the Villa Medici in Rome.

Murail, who is a year younger than Hersant, also studied at the Paris Conservatory and also won the Prix de Rome. Studying in the Italian capital, he was greatly influenced by the idiosyncratic, almost oriental musical style of Giacinto Scelsi. Murail, who likens his work *Vues aeriennes* (1986) to Claude Monet's paintings of the Rouen cathedral, attempts to convey different versions of the same object. *Vues aeriennes* is divided into four "aspects": morning light, light in rain, light of midday, and light of evening.

The musicians are John Smith, French horn; Tom Chiu, violin; Alexis Gerlach, cello; and Michael Torre, piano.

August 2 and 3
Music for Chamber Orchestra

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971): *Concerto in E flat "Dumbarton Oaks"* (1937-38)
 Philippe Hersant (b. 1948): *Lebenslauf* (1992) American premiere
 Tristan Murail (b. 1947): *Vues aeriennes* (1986)
 Erik Satie (1896-1925): *Relâche* (1924)

On Friday, August 9 and Saturday, August 10, four works will be performed by the Flux String Quartet: Tom Chiu and Cornelius Dufallo, violin; Kenji Bunch, viola; and David Eggar, cello. The program features the world premiere of Alejandro Iglesias Rossi's *Khipus II* and the American premiere of Renaud Gagneux's *String Quartet No. 1*. Works by Henri Dutilleux and Darius Milhaud will also be included.

Rossi, born in Buenos Aires in 1960, attended the Catholic University of Argentina, the Boston Conservatory of Music (where he studied with John Adams), and the Paris Conservatory. A percussionist, Rossi specializes in African and South American instruments and has a special interest in the culture of the Quechuas, whose ancestors were members of the Incan empire. *Khipus II* was begun toward the end of Rossi's long stay in Paris, completed after he returned to Argentina in 1992, and revised in 1994. The piece resonates with the ritual character central to Incan life, drawing on the sounds of singing, percussion, pan flute, *queno* (a type of flute), and *charango* (a stringed instrument.)

Parisian composer Renard Gagneux studied with Henri Dutilleux, Karlheinz Stockhausen, André Jolivet, and Olivier Messiaen. His first string quartet premiered in 1987 and was performed by the Suk Quartet. (His earlier cello concerto was first performed in 1993 by Mstislav Rostropovich, who recently recorded it with Seiji Ozawa.)

Henri Dutilleux's *String Quartet "Ainsi la nuit"* was commissioned for the Juilliard String Quartet by the Koussevitsky Foundation and given its American premiere at the Library of Congress in 1978. The work consists of an introduction and seven variations connected by brief interludes.

Darius Milhaud, a prolific composer, wrote eighteen string quartets between 1912 and 1950. The tenth was composed in 1940 aboard ship while Milhaud and his wife, having escaped the Nazi invasion of France, were sailing to America.

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August 9 and 10
Music for String Quartet

- Renaud Gagneux (b. 1947): *String Quartet No. 1* (1986) American premiere
- Alejandro Iglesias Rossi (b. 1960): *Khipus II* (1991-92; new version 1995) world premiere
- Henri Dutilleux (b. 1916): *String Quartet "Ainsi la nuit"* (1975-76)
- Darius Milhaud (1892-1974): *Quartet No. 10, Op. 218* (1940)

The concerts are performed by young artists and recent graduates from The Juilliard School of Music in The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden, which is open free to the public from 6:00 p.m. Entrance to SUMMERGARDEN is at 14 West 54 Street. Weekly program information is available to the public by calling 212/708-9491 or by visiting the MoMA Web site at <http://www.moma.org>. Concerts begin at 8:30 p.m.

SUMMERGARDEN 1996 is made possible, for the fifth consecutive year, by a generous grant from the Everett B. Birch Foundation.

Light refreshments and beverages are offered by Sette MoMA, the Museum's restaurant, in the Sculpture Garden. Located on the Museum's second floor, the restaurant also serves dinner from 5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The Museum galleries are open Friday evenings until 8:30 p.m. and Saturday evenings until 6:00 p.m.

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