

Distinguished Visitor

Marc Couroux
Pianist and Composer

Tuesday, April 15, 2003 at 8:00 pm



Convocation
Hall

Arts Building
University of Alberta

Program



DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC

Program

One Says. History Is. (2003)* Peter Hatch
1 - How do you like what you have heard
2 - History leaves no place
3 - Which it is as they do

The Underfolding (2001) Linda Catlin Smith

Form Archimage (2001)* Howard Bashaw

Pause

rat-drifting (1999) Martin Arnold

The Wrong Technique (2000) Marc Couroux

*Premiere

As a pianist, **Marc Couroux** is one of Canada's leading interpreters of 20th century music. Acclaimed as "*the Glenn Gould of contemporary music*", in 1998 Couroux won the OPUS Award for "Discovery of the Year", given by the Conseil Québécois de la Musique, an award which confirms his already preeminent presence on the Canadian new music scene.

As composer, Couroux is obsessed with the reinvention and renewal of modern concert ritual, challenging the received and seldom questioned notion of the socio-political confines of the concert. He believes that public performance is an inherently political act and from this he has composed a striking series of works committed to reclaiming a critical function for art in Canadian culture.

Couroux frequently collaborates with his wife, actress and playwright Juliana Pivato, writing music for her play entitled *The Nudist Colonic*, premiered at the Edmonton Fringe Festival in August 2000 and performed in Montréal.

Marc Couroux was born in Montréal in 1970. From 1989 to 1994, he worked with Louis-Philippe Pelletier at McGill University in Montréal, where he obtained his Master's Degree in 1994. In 1996, he was awarded the Prix Québec-Flandres which led to an invitation from the Flemish community to give a recital in Brussels in November 1996, as part of the Société Philharmonique series. He has been acclaimed for his remarkable renditions of *Evryali* by Iannis Xenakis, the *Études pour piano* by György Ligeti (giving the North-American premiere with the Société de Musique Contemporaine du Québec in 1996) and Ligeti's *Piano Concerto* with the Québec Symphony Orchestra in 1998.

In the last few years, Couroux has focused on the development and dissemination of new Canadian piano music. In upcoming seasons he will be premiering new works by Howard Bashaw, Denys Bouliane, Yves Daoust, Michel Gonneville, Yannick Plamondon, Jon Rea, André Ristic, Ana Sokolovic and Paul Steenhuisen.

Couroux has also been instrumental in exposing Canadian audiences to iconoclastic European composers. In July 1998, he took part in *Le Cahier Perdu de Casanova* by Claudio Ambrosini, presented at the Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele. In June 2000, he took part in the prestigious Holland Festival, performing Claude Vivier's *Shiraz*, during the Nederlandse Opera's *Rêves d'un Marco Polo* Vivier retrospective. He also presented two recitals in The Hague (Holland), including a major new work by Scott Godin, *Melting Architecture*. In August 2000, he presented Michael Oesterle's *Après Tarkovsky* at the St Norbert Arts Centre, Winnipeg, accompanied by the films of Andrei Tarkovsky. In March of 2002, he performed in Cologne for the WDR (West German Radio) with the Schönberg Ensemble in a concert of works by Claude Vivier and György Ligeti.

In 1997 he founded *Ensemble KORE* with composer Michael Oesterle in order to recreate a living relationship between the composer and the listener, producing semi-staged concerts where the notion of ritual is radically rethought, de-centering the listener from the proscenium-audience dialectic, reinstalling the creative mind at the centre of the concert.

Marc Couroux was Artist-in-Residence at Princeton University in 1996 (through the National Endowment for the Arts), at the 1996 Domaine Forget Summer Course for New Music (in the north of Québec) and at the 1993-94 "June in Buffalo" Festivals.

Upcoming Events

April

17 Thursday, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Piano and Composition Masterclass
with Distinguished Visitor
Marc Couroux
Studio 27, Fine Arts Building 2-7
Free admission

17 Thursday, 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Lecture
"On the expansion of concert ritual and
the development of a new
performative ethic"
with Distinguished Visitor
Marc Couroux
Free admission

17 Thursday, Time: To be announced
Video Presentation **Rockford**
by **Marc Couroux**
Distinguished Visitor
Studio 27, Fine Arts Building 2-7
Free admission
For more information,
please call 492-0585

22 Tuesday, 7:30 pm
The University of Alberta
Clarinet Choir
and the **Wind Rose Trio**
Jeff Campbell, clarinet
Beth Levia, oboe
Matthew Howatt, bassoon
Works by Harvey, Debussy, Lewin,
Schickele, and Beethoven
Free admission
Studio 27, Fine Arts Building

29 Tuesday, 8:00 pm
Doctor of Music Recital
Bianca Baci, piano
Chamber Music works by Beethoven,
Rachmaninoff and Dvorak
Free admission

May

14 Wednesday, 8:00 pm
Doctor of Music Recital
Magdalena Adamek, piano
Free admission

24 Saturday, 8:00 pm
Frank Ho, violin
Alexandra Munn, piano
Works by Schubert, Falla
and Wieniawski
Admission: \$10/student/senior, \$15/adult

Please donate to Campus Food Bank



Unless otherwise indicated

Admission: \$10/adult, \$5/student/senior
Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta
Please note: All concerts and events are subject to change
without notice. Please call 492-0601 to confirm concerts
(after office hours a recorded message will inform you of any
changes to our schedule).