

THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Presents

TOM PLAUNT, pianist

Wednesday, November 3, 1982 at 8:00 p.m.

Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building

This program is about memory.

Music heard in one's past, and coloured by the passage of time, is central to Brian Cherney's "DANS LE CREPUSCULE DU SOUVENIR..." Appropriately, then, the middle piece of the cycle contains quotations from music of the past, interwoven, collage-like, with the composer's present tense. The fourth piece places further quotations in the context of a series of clear chords, as if in an independent time structure, in another dimension so to speak. The final piece contains its own references to the past, but this time, its "own" past, as the references and proportioning of time recall earlier pieces within the cycle itself.

To set up our own memory sequence I begin with the three small pieces from Schumann's "ALBUM FÜR DIE JUGEND". These pieces are deliberately vague, yet brilliantly evocative of passing moods and chimeras. Quoted in WINTERSZEIT II are themes from two of Schumann's early piano works, PAPILLONS AND CARNAVAL; these themes in turn are said to refer to 18th century ballroom tunes and/or signals.

And Charles Ives looks back to the philosophers and writers associated with Concord, Massachusetts in the mid-19th century. Again there are quotations: gospel hymns and Beethoven's Fifth, fiddle tunes, folk melodies, a fragment of Stephen Foster. Also impressions-in-sound of an old country town: chiming clocks, a cornet band, church bells, a passing train perhaps -- all within a fantastically complex, free-wheeling and individual score. Ives seeks to convey an impression of times past, the spirit of a unique community.

May this music also create echoes and variations for our own unique community this evening.

(Tom Plaunt)

Biographical note.

Tom Plaunt's early musical training includes a ragtime dance band, and playing while under age in a norther barroom... Summer work in the bush helped him through the University of Toronto where he blithely spent most of his time performing, composing, and conducting - musical comedy to Renaissance consort. Abandoning music history and Canada for performance studies in Germany, he worked under several distinguished teachers and won the Germanic Academic Exchange Scholarship three years in a row.

His 1979 London debut was praised for its "refreshing spontaneity -- the grand scale of his playing". Recent performances of Ives' formidable "Concord" Sonata have elicited high praise for "the panache, the tumultuous life, the serenity and elegance..." (Edinburgh, 1981). He will record the work in 1983.

His performances have been broadcast on European networks and the CBC and he is heard throughout Canada, Britain and the US in solo and chamber recitals. This season Professor Plaunt will make his Carnegie Recital Hall debut as well as give performances and masterclasses in Britain. He lives in Montreal where he teaches piano, accompaniment and chamber music at McGill University's Faculty of Music.

His wife and his two little boys put up with his practicing at home...

from
ALBUM FÜR DIE JUGEND, Op. 68. Robert Schumann
Mignon (1810-1856)
Winterszeit I
Winterszeit II

"DANS LE CRÉPUSCULE DU SOUVENIR..." Brian Cherney
cinq pièces pour piano (b. 1942)

I

. . . au lointain de cette nuit, la Terre
Jette d'un grand éclat l'insolite mystère,
Sous les siècles hideux qui l'obscurcissent moins.

Plusieurs Sonnets, I.

II

Âme au si clair foyer tremblante de m'asseoir,
Pour revivre il suffit qu'a tes lèvres j'emprunte
Le souffle de mon nom murmuré tout un soir.

*Sonnet (pour votre chère morte, son ami)
Hommages et Tombeaux*

III

Des crépuscules blancs tiédissent sous mon crâne
Qu'un cercle de fer serre ainsi qu'un vieux tombeau
Et triste, j'erre après un rêve vague et beau.

Renouveau

IV

Mon âme vers ton front où rêve, ô calme soeur,
Un automne jonché de taches de rousseur, / Et vers
le ciel errant de ton oeil angélique / Monte, comme
dans un jardin mélancolique, / Fidèle, un blanc jet
d'eau soupire vers l'Azur!

Soupir

V

Ses purs ongles très haut dédiant leur onyx,
L'Angoisse, ce minuit, soutient, lampadophore,
Maint rêve vespéral brûlé par le Phénix
Que ne recueille pas de cinéraire amphore.

Plusieurs Sonnets, IV.

(Mallarmé)

INTERMISSION

PIANO SONATA No. 2. Charles Ives
"Concord, Massachusetts, 1840-1860" (1874-1954)

Emerson
Hawthorne
The Alcotts
Thoreau

