

Visiting Artist

Marc Couroux, piano

Monday, April 6, 1998 at 8:00 pm

**Convocation Hall, Arts Building
University of Alberta**

Program



**Department of Music
University of Alberta**

Program

Cro (1997) (excerpts) World Premiere	Ian Crutchley (b. 1965)
Narcissus (1981) Turandot (1989)	Rodney Sharman (b. 1958)
Zone (1996)	Michael Oesterle (b. 1968)

Intermission

Bent-Luke-Kram-Abbé (1997-98)	Michael Oesterle
Fantasia Stravagante (1997)	Jean Lesage (b. 1958)

All works composed for Marc Couroux.

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" by the Conseil Québécois de la Musique, an award which confirms his already pre-eminent presence on the Canadian new music scene.

Born in Montreal in 1970, he worked from 1989-1994 with Louis-Philippe Pelletier at McGill University, where he obtained his Master's Degree in 1994. In 1996 he was awarded the Prix Quebec-Flandres, resulting in 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 *Night Fantasies* by Elliott Carter, *Evryali* by Iannis Xenakis and the *Etudes pour piano* by György Ligeti, of which he gave the North American premiere with the Société de Music Contemporaine du Québec in February 1996. He was soloist with the McGill Symphony Orchestra in the North American

premiere of Bengt Hambraeus' *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra* in October 1995. In March 1996 he presented a recital of Canadian and Belgian works at the Ars Musica festival in Brussels. In June he performed the *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra* by Gyorgy Ligeti with the CBC Vancouver Orchestra. In November 1996 he premiered works by the finalists in the Nouvel Ensemble Moderne's "Forum '96" and in February 1998 he premiered the monumental *Fantasia Stravagante* by Jean Lesage at the National Gallery of Canada.

In upcoming seasons he will be premiering new works by Howard Bashaw, Denys Bouliane, Ian Crutchley, Scott Godin, Michel Gonneville, Jean Lesage, Eric Marty, Yannick Plamondon, John Rea, André Ristic, Rodney Sharman, Ana Sokolovic, Paul Steenhuisen and Luke Stoneham. Two large scale premieres in 1998: the encyclopedic *History of Photography in Sound* by Michael Finnissy (five hours' duration) and the *Tarkovsky Cycle* by Michael Oesterle. In 1998 he will give two marathon recitals for Vancouver Pro Musica and during the *Semaine de musique québécoise pour le piano* in Montreal. In July 1998 he will take part in a project celebrating the 200th anniversary of the death of Casanova, with music by Claudio Ambrosini and concerts in Ludwigsburg and Venice. In autumn 1999, he will premiere Sean Ferguson's *Piano Concerto* with the SMCQ ensemble and a new piano concerto by Michael Oesterle with the Ensemble Orchestral Contemporain (GRAME) in Lyon (France).

In 1997 Marc Couroux founded Ensemble KORE with composer Michael Oesterle in order to intensify links between composers and performers across Canada. He is also a member of KAPPA, a multi-directional ensemble founded by Philippe Keyser and the Theatre of Entropy, a semi-improvisational electroacoustic group dedicated to a new "drama in music."

Marc Couroux was Artist-in-Residence at Princeton University in Spring 1996, a distinction bestowed on him by the National Endowment for the Arts in the USA. He was resident pianist at the 1996 Domaine Forget Summer Course for New Music (in the north of Quebec) and since 1994 he has been pianist-in-residence at the *June in Buffalo* Festival. In 1998 he will perform at the Universities of Brandon, Alberta (Edmonton) and British Columbia.

He is also developing an alternate career as music writer and lecturer, having already published a seminal article on *Evryali* by Xenakis in the Université de Montréal periodical *Circuit* and an article on the music of James Harley in *Musicworks*. A book on selected aesthetic and pragmatic issues in post-1945 piano music will be completed in the coming years as well as a socio-musicological study of Canadian music since 1980.

Marc Couroux is presently preparing his first two compact discs of Canadian works composed for him, to be released in 1998-99 on the ATMA label.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, April 8 at 8:00 pm

Convocation Hall, Arts Building

Admission: \$7/adult, \$5/student/senior

The University of Alberta Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Fordyce Pier, director with **Jeffrey Anderson, saxophone soloist**. Program will include works by Wagner, Boutry, Wilson, and Cable.

Friday, April 24 at 8:00 pm

Convocation Hall, Arts Building

Admission: \$10/adult,

\$5/student/senior

Faculty Recital: **Leonard Ratzlaff, bass and director of "The Garneau Ensemble"** - **Jolaine Kerley and Casey Peden, sopranos; John Brough, alto; and Tim Shantz, tenor**. Program will include "Sacred and Profane" by Benjamin Britten and "Sestina" by Claudio Monteverdi.



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).