

The music of György Kurtág and its interpretation

International symposium - November 24-26, 2016 - Hungarian Institute Paris
Hosted by EA 1572 « *Esthétique, musicologie, danse et création musicale* » (Paris 8)
and Labex GREAM (Strasbourg)

György Kurtág, one of the most prominent European composers of the second half of the 20th century, celebrated his 90th birthday earlier this year. The forthcoming symposium (Nov. 24-26) at the Hungarian Institute in Paris is not only an opportunity to celebrate an exceptional musical output but also to highlight and analyze the core of its expressive intensity, i.e. the close relationship between composition (writing) and interpretation (performing).

The symposium will focus on three particular aspects of this relationship:

- The writing itself intensifies the performative aspect inherent to music: numerous directions, complex ways of playing, flexibility of rhythm and tempo all characterize Kurtág's work. This dimension is enhanced by the composer's demands on the performers as regards the quality of sound, gesture and expression: sensitive understanding as well as body and movement awareness make for a singular, irreducible mode of knowledge.

- Kurtág's inspiration draws upon an imaginary instrumental world echoing his personal history, the history of music and History in general. The composer's world, as we know, is full of references, tributes, evocations, quotes, stolen or borrowed elements that are distorted, but also subtle inflexions that any performer must know and recognize.

- Kurtág's music exemplifies how performance impacts the writing process: the musical gesture itself becomes compositional material that translates into signs or other formal figures. Further developed and transformed, their metamorphosis gives them new vitality and unprecedented character.

This interdisciplinary symposium will bring together the perspectives of musicologists and performers. Presentations, master-classes by Hungarian pianist Gábor Csalog and concerts are all part of the project. Audiovisual documents relating to the performance of Kurtág's music – including examples provided by the composer himself – will enrich the discussion. The symposium will focus on five major works:

- *Hommage à R. Sch.*
- *Kafka-Fragmente*
- *Játékok*
- *Signs, Games and Messages (selected pieces)*
- *Tre pezzi per clarinette e cimbalom*

Scientific committee:

Anna Dalos - Institute of Musicology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Péter Halász - Institute of Musicology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Márta Grabócz - University of Strasbourg

Jean Paul Olive - University Paris 8

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Deadline for receiving the titles is April 30th 2016
