

21M.260: STRAVINSKY TO THE PRESENT

ASSIGNMENT due at Class 18, April 14

Reading: Auner, p. 234-252.

Anthology works: György Ligeti, *Continuum*

Supplemental: Ligeti's *Atmosphères*
Conlon Nancarrow, *Study 3*
Gérard Grisey, *Partiels*
Tristan Murail, *Vues aériennes*

Before you begin, skim the Grove Music Online article about Ligeti. Listen to *Continuum* with the score, read Auner's anthology notes and the passage from the Auner textbook, and finally listen to *Atmosphères* (9 minutes, supplemental). Find answers to the following questions:

What are some of the advantages of the emphasis on texture? What is de-emphasized in this approach, and what becomes more important (not just "texture," what else follows)?

What is micropolyphony and how specifically is the technique manifested in *Continuum* and *Atmosphères* (supplemental)?

Definition of micropolyphony:

Continuum:

Atmosphères:

To what extent do you find that it matters that the composer has subjected aspects of the music to careful control in order to create the effects of micropolyphony? Why?

What is “moment form” and why is it particularly germane to texture music (as opposed to being an effective way to listen to all music)?

Now listen to the Nancarrow study (3 minutes). Based on what Auner wrote and on your own ears, what are the main points of convergence between his technique and Ligeti’s? What, on the other hand, differentiates Nancarrow’s approach from Ligeti’s? Try to come up with two ideas for each side.

CONVERGENCE: 1.

2.

DIFFERENTIATION: 1.

2.

Supplemental listening (spectral music, two options)

What is spectralism and how does it relate to scientific inquiry?

Why, on the other hand, might listeners and critics perceive spectral music as more accessible or understandable than other similarly complicated music?

Listen carefully with *no distractions* except a notetaking apparatus (pencil/pen/keyboard) to either Grisey OR Murail (both spectral music; you might pick according to what Auner says about each). While you listen, take notes on what you hear. Then write 4-5 complete sentences reflecting on your listening experience. What challenges your perception or enjoyment? What do you find beautiful/ intriguing?

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