

New Sounds/New Media

PLATO & The Western Tradition
A Postmodern Improvisation Ensemble

Program

Music for a Summer Evening

Intermission

Quincentennial Celebration (1492-1992)

Phillip A. Ray, Boyd Nutting, David K. Barton, musicians
Jon Yazell, camera

Notes

Although technically it won't be summer for another week, it *feels* like summer (at least I hope that June won't be as cold as was May!). So we begin our program with an improvisation dedicated to summer, and to evening.

Our second improvisation has a more complicated concept. I have had to move out of and then back into my studio at IUSB, so that it could be painted. In the process of doing all of the packing and unpacking, a number of odds and ends of music have come to my attention, among them a *Lament on the Death of Lorenzo di Medici*, composed in the year 1492 by his court composer, Heinrich Isaac. This led me to thinking of a 1492 connection of my own. In 1979 and 1980 I edited a mass by Pierre deLa Rue, the *Missa Almanca*, and then rehearsed and performed the work, probably for the first time in nearly five centuries. We don't know exactly when or for what occasion La Rue composed his mass, but we do know that in August, 1492 the Emperor Maximilian of Austria visited his son-in-law, Phillip the Fair, Duke of Burgandy, for whom La Rue worked as court composer. A contemporary writes of the occasion that "the choirs of the Emperor and the Duke joined forces one morning to sing an elaborate Mass." It is fun to speculate that it may have been the *La Rue Mass*, since the title, which translates as "*German Mass*" seems to have some reference to something to do with Germany/Austria.

For this improvisation I have prepared some material derived from both the Isaac *Lament* and the *La Rue Mass*, which I have stored in my computer. Some of it may occur as more or less straight parodies of Renaissance style; or, it may appear transformed or manipulated by the potentials of computer-assisted performance.

As usual in PLATO improvisations, we don't have any plans, beyond the fact that I have prepared some material which I may or may not use. We invite you to create your own scenario for the music - find your own meaning or lack thereof.

Seven-thirty o'clock
Saturday, June 13, 1992
Indiana University South Bend
Recital Hall 1991-1992 Season
Forty-second Program

The use of recording or photographic devices at a concert in any auditorium of IUSB is forbidden. Eating, drinking or smoking at such events is also prohibited. Attendance by children under the age of responsible behavior is discouraged.

