

SYZYGY

presents

SSM
85.9.19
BUR

DAVID BURGE, *piano*

"New Music for the Piano"

*Thursday, September 19, 1985
8:00 p.m. in Hamman Hall*

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music



PROGRAM

The Blue Journey (1982)

Datca

Marmaris

Gokova

Kamran Ince

Gnomic Variations (1982)

George Crumb

Sphaera (1985)

for piano and computer generated four-channel tape

William Albright

INTERMISSION

Fantasy pieces (1982)

Arik

There is my people sleeping

Reminiscences of Turandot

Quicksilver

Fallen Angel

Alfred Fisher

Châînes (1973)

Part I

Châînettes I & II

Part II

Châînettes III & IV

Part III

Akira Miyoshi

Photographing and sound recording are prohibited. We further request that audible paging devices not be used during the performance. Paging arrangements may be made with the ushers.

BIOGRAPHY

DAVID BURGE, called "one of the most remarkable pianists of our time" by critic Paul Hume of the Washington Post, is internationally known as a concert pianist, recording artist, lecturer, journalist, and teacher. Since 1975 he has been Chairman of the Piano Department of the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

Burge is particularly well known for his performances of twentieth-century music. His more than thirty recordings encompass music by virtually every major composer for the piano in this century. As a touring artist he has been heard across the United States for three decades. During the 1983-84 season he was head from coast to coast, including a performance in Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center, New York. Also during the season he performed in Tokyo, Taipei, Bangkok, and in several cities in Australia and New Zealand. In addition he was in residence on two occasions at the Banff Center for Performing Arts in Canada.

Included among the many composers who have written works for Burge are George Crumb, C. Curtis-Smith, William Albright, David Bedford, Alfred Fisher, Ann Silsbee, and Barton McLean. Recent premieres include works by Kamran Ince of Turkey, Akira Miyoshi of Japan, and Robert Morris of the United States. During the present season he will introduce several new works, including a composition for piano and tape written for him by William Albright.

Burge has been active as a composer, conductor, festival director, and journalist in addition to his other activities. His monthly column for Keyboard Magazine has twice won the Deem Taylor award for musical journalism. For Keyboard and other publications, Burge has published over one hundred articles on a variety of musical topics.

Burge's reputation as a teacher is attested to by the international makeup of his class of students at the Eastman School of Music, where in the present academic year he is working with students from Australia, Norway, Turkey, Korea, Canada, Spain, and Malaysia, as well as student from throughout the United States.

SYZYGY COMMITTEE

Ellsworth Milburn, Chairman

George Burt

Brian Conelly

Paul Cooper

Arthur Gottschalk

PROGRAM NOTES

Kamran Ince is a young Turkish-American composer. His orchestral, chamber, vocal, and solo works are characterized by sudden and extreme contrasts in textures, dynamics, and—in some cases—styles. Many of his works make poignant use of the melodies and instrumental styles of Turkish folk music. The Blue Journey is actually the name of a trip one can take along the coast of southwestern Turkey on the Mediterranean Sea. The titles of the three movements are names of cities one would visit on such a trip.

George Crumb's Gnostic Variations consists of a theme and eighteen variations. The latter are divided into three groups of six each with short pauses between groups. Crumb has written that he means the word gnostic "in its original sense: terse, pithy, aphoristic, sententious." As in all of Crumb's music there is a strong harmonic and motivistic consistency and coherence.

William Albright is internationally known as a concert organist, composer, and ragtime pianist. As a composer he has produced works in almost every medium, though he is probably best known for his keyboard works. Sphaera was commissioned by the MIT Experimental Music Studio. The tape part was created using the computer facilities of the MIT Studio. The work, dedicated to David Burge, is in five sections which are played without pause. It lasts about thirteen minutes.

Alfred Fisher is a Canadian composer. The Fantasy Pieces, written for David Burge, reflect his interest in the Canadian Indians with whom he has had close association.

Akira Miyoshi's Chaines combines a Buddhist conception of time and space with a sound ideal reminiscent of Messiaen. It is not surprising to learn that the composer, director of the Toho School of Music in Tokyo, did much of his compositional studies in France. Moreover, he has a degree in French literature. The work, alternating between the three sections which are very active and the two sets of "Chainettes" which are more contemplative, has extraordinary metaphysical connotations. The composer prescribes the kind of breathing that is depicted in nearly every section of the work, which ends with the cessation of all breathing, entering into a new domain.