

Henri Pousseur to be the Regents Lecturer

November 15, 1984

A Belgian composer of the post-war generation, Henri Pousseur, will be a Regents Lecturer in the Department of Music from November 20 through December 2 at the University of California, San Diego. Pousseur ranks with such composers as Karlheinz Stockhausen, Luciano Berio and Pierre Boulez, and is an influential intellectual, according to music department chairman Jean-Charles Francois.

Three of Pousseur's major works will be played during his stay in San Diego. The first to be performed is the premiere performance of "The Passion According to Punch," conducted by Richard Hickox and featuring the Electric Phoenix, at 8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 23, at San Diego Civic Theatre. The concert will be preceded by a composer's forum discussing this work, at 7 p.m. in the Civic Theatre Grand Salon.

Another work, "Crosses of Crossed Colors," will be performed as a tribute to the late Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights movement, at 8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 30, in the UCSD Mandeville Center Recital Hall. Carol Plantamura is the featured soprano.

The astounding musical skills of the vocal group Electric Phoenix, four voices with electronics, will again be featured during the UCSD music department's "Wednesday Night at the Mandeville" series, in a presentation of Pousseur's "Tales and Songs from the Bible of Hell," at 8 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 28, in the Mandeville Auditorium.

Pousseur will offer three lectures during his stay. The first, at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 20, in the UCSD Mandeville Center East Room, will focus on his large-scale opera "Votre Faust," a work which allows the audience to choose the ending. Pousseur composed the piece in collaboration with French writer Michel Butor, from 1961 to 1968.

The second lecture will focus on Pousseur's esthetic and technical investigation of variable forms as expressed in his two "American" works, "Crosses of Crossed Colors" and "Crossed Colors" (for orchestra), at noon, Tuesday, Nov. 27, room B-210, in the UCSD Mandeville Center.

The third lecture, at 6 p.m., Monday, Dec. 3, at UCSD Center for Music Experiment, Warren Campus, will center on Pousseur's recent efforts to enlarge the scope of his productions with examples from two recent works: "Les Isles Dechaingues" (1980) for jazz, live electronics, and symphonic orchestra and "La Rose des Vois" (1982) for speakers, choirs, and improvising instruments.

Composer Rhonda Kess, director and founder of the New Music Settings Ensemble in Los Angeles will present a slide show at noon, Wednesday, Nov. 28, in room B-210, Mandeville Center, on Pousseur's multi-media piece "The Trials of Peter the Hebrew." She will discuss her May 1984 premiere American production of this work, which is based on an incident of the life of composer Arnold Schoenberg, who at age 70, wrote the Guggenheim Foundation for a grant and was turned down.

Exhibits of scores, music and photos will be available from Nov. 19 to Dec. 3 in the UCSD Central University Library, 4th floor, Music Library and also from Nov. 23-25 in the Civic Theatre Grand Salon, 202 C Street. For more details, call 452-3229 or 452-3230.

Henri Pousseur is currently the director of the Royal Music Conservatory of Liege, Belgium.

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