

A lecture/demonstration given by conductor Konstantin Simonovitch

October 5, 1972

A lecture/demonstration, "Dialogue between American and French Music of the Last Two Centuries," will be given by noted French conductor Konstantin Simonovitch at the University of California, San Diego at noon, Thursday, October 19, in the Recital Hall; Bldg. 409, on the Matthews Campus.

Simonovitch, president, founder, and conductor of the world-famous Paris Instrumental Ensemble for Contemporary Music, began his musical studies in his early youth in Belgrade and was only twelve when he gave his first violin recital. Admitted later to Belgrade's Upper Musical Academy, he distinguished himself in conducting, composition, trumpet, and percussion classes. He was appointed solo kettle drummer of Belgrade's Opera while at the Academy.

He is Conductor of Barcelona's Catalan Orchestra for Contemporary Music, Founder of the Paris Musical Theater, Musical Director of the Ypsilanty Greek Theater in the United States and member of the Jury of the Paris Biennial.

In 1955 he worked with Igor Markevitch and then with Lovro von Matacltch. In 1959 he became Hermann Scherchen's collaborator until the latter's death in 1966.

In addition, Simonovitch works in close cooperation with the French Broadcasting and Television Office (ORTF) where he was for some time in charge of the Instrumental Research Department. A great part of the ORTF's recording library is composed of works performed by Simonovitch and the Paris Ensemble for Contemporary Music, which features top French soloists and plays an important part in European musical life.

In 1966, he was the recipient of the "Grand Prix du Disque" for his interpretation of Xenakist "Eonta." Several television programs, including "Spontane III" and "Spontane IV", a film on Varese, and a film on Scherchen, were devoted to him and the orchestra. He has also conducted recordings of musical scores for various films by Alain Resnais, Agnes Varda, Joris Ivens, Nico Papatakis, Jean-Louis Bertuccelli.

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