

## UCSD composer Roger Reynolds to perform "Whispers Out of Time" on February 15

January 29, 1990

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SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY TO PERFORM 1989 PULITZER PRIZE WORK "WHISTERS OUT OF TIME," BY THE UCSD COMPOSER, ROGER REYNOLDS.

The 1989 Pulitzer Prize winning composition "Whispers Out of Time," by the University of California, San Diego professor of music and composer, Roger Reynolds, will make its West Coast premiere at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, in the UCSD Mandeville Center Auditorium. The performance will include soloists Peter Farrell, cello; Janos Negyesy, violin; Yun-Jie Liu, viola and Bertram Turetzky, contrabass.

Also on the program will be Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4, with three soloists: Negyesy, violin; John Fonville, flute, and Damian Bursill-Hall, flute; and a second Reynolds work titled "Transfigured Wind II," a piece written for flutist Harvey Sollberger, who will guest-conduct the San Diego Symphony Orchestra for this University co-sponsored Pulitzer Series concert. Soloist for this work will be Fonville.

Reynolds, renowned for his use of digital technology in combination with traditional instruments, wrote "Whispers Out of Time" for string orchestra while he was a visiting professor at Amherst College in the fall of 1988. The 25-minute piece for a 23-member string ensemble received its first performance at Amherst in December, 1988.

Reynolds says that the title of the work is taken from a line in the poem, "Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror," by the contemporary American poet John Ashbery. Reynolds was so taken with Ashbery's poem that he was inspired to write an analog in sound. "My thought was to examine the circumstances that had stimulated the poet and to follow musically where possible the processes that he used or at least the processes that his words suggested."

The poet's inspiration, in turn, came from viewing a work by the 16th Century Italian painter, Parmigianino. The artist had painted his own portrait on the surface of a wooden ball, simulating the curvature of a convex barber's mirror. When Ashbery saw the painting, during a trip to Vienna, it stimulated him to write "Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror." The poem won a 1976 Pulitzer Prize.

As Ashbery captured images of Parmigianino in verse, Reynolds' work reaches back to Mahler and to Mahler's quoting of passages by Beethoven. Ashbery refers to a first-movement theme in Mahler's Ninth Symphony as sounding like "death itself." Reynolds says, "Indeed, Mahler's work, coming shortly after he learned that his life would soon end, is suffused with darkness. But, Mahler too is found to be looking into his and music's past when he quotes the "Lebewohl" (farewell) opening to Beethoven's E-flat Sonata Op. 81a in his Ninth Symphony.

In "Whispers," Reynolds says he reduced the introduction of the Beethoven sonata to a two-line skeleton, and then stretched out phrase by phrase its original rhythmic proportions. "The effect is a temporal convexity, shorter notes at the beginning and ending of each phrase, and relatively longer values in the middle.

"Transfigured Wind II," a 35-minute work for orchestra, flute and quadraphonic tape, debuted at the Lincoln Center, New York, in 1984, on the Horizons '84 Festival. Sollberger was solo flutist, and Pulitzer Prize winner Charles Wuorinen conducted.

The taped electronic portion of "Transfigured Wind II" is derived from flute sounds, recorded by Sollberger. Reynolds then electronically manipulated the taped material with a computer, decomposing, altering, and then reassembling the sounds. Reynolds says these techniques enlarge sounds, allowing them to seem suspended in time. The computer-generated taped sound weaves throughout the composition, creating a dialogue between soloist Fonville and his computer-created double.

Reynolds studied music and science at the University of Michigan, where his composition teachers were Ross Lee Finney and Roberto Gerhard. In 1971, he founded the UCSD Center for Music Experiment and Related Research.

"Whispers Out of Time" and "Transfigured Wind II" will be recorded this month at UCSD by New World Records.

Pulitzer Series tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office (534-4559), at the Symphony Hall Ticket Office, from TicketMaster and by telephone from TicketMaster with a major credit card. Parking directions and permits are available at the UCSD Information Pavilion at the Gilman Drive entrance to the campus.

(January 29, 1990)