

# MHL 603 – PREPARATION 4

## *Anxiety about serialism*

due **Mon, Oct 5 6pm via email**  
(mason.bates@notes.sfcm.edu)

### **Please listen to the following:**

- Milton Babbitt, *Three Compositions*
- Webern, *First Cantata*

### **Then read the following short articles:**

- Berio, Luciano. *Meditation on a 12-tone horse*
- Boulez, Pierre. *Schoenberg is dead*

*Scores, recordings, and reading are posted online and also in the reserve binder in the library.*

### **Pick one** of the following topics and write **one or two paragraphs**:

1. How is the serial approach of Babbitt and Webern different from that of Schoenberg? Please refer to the two pieces above, in addition to the Schoenberg Wind Quintet. Give specific examples and talk about...
  - how each composer uses the row
  - whether or not other serial procedures are used
  - the different kinds of instrumental textures or sonorities
  - how the pieces sound
2. Discuss how the two articles address the doubts or anxieties within the serial movement. If Berio, for example, is a 12-tone composer, then what problems does he have with some aspects of serialism? For Boulez, who is the greatest serial composer, and who does he think is 'overrated?' In your preparation, refer to specific passages in the reading.

### **Please follow the following format for your documents:**

- Write "Preparation 2" and your name at the top
- Specify which question you are answering
- Save your document as a PDF and include "Prep2" and your name in the filename (for ex: "Prep2-MasonBates.pdf")