

Reading for discussion:

Birds, Beasts, and Bombs in Messiaen's Cold War Mass

BY ROBERT FALLON

Listening/Analysis

La Nativité du Seigneur

Movements I, II, VI

[Use score for LES BERGERS - movement II], just employ aural perception for movements I and II.

Make notes on ALL of these concepts (brief but complete sentences):

1. Modes - use of the modes presented in class - melodic and harmonic
2. Rhythm structures
3. Form
4. Extra-musical (including theological) ideas and influences
5. Unifying elements
6. Non-retrogradable rhythms
7. Other concerns from the lists in past assignments:

themes (from his list and marks in the score – and consider use of silence)

thematic transformation (expansion, contraction, augmentation, diminution)

prolongation (by what means and how: repetition, sequence, other...)

expectation (fulfilled or awakened)

notation and metric organization (by phrase or theme, by regular meter, by changing meter,
– and consider added values)

voicing (range, contrasts, density, sparsity)

dynamics and articulations (changes, relation of sections, extremes)

tempi (changes, relation of sections, extremes)