

## **841-752 Olivier Messiaen: Selected Keyboard Works (and other pieces)**

**SFCM Fall 2009**

**Instructor: Dr. Thomas Conroy**

**Email: [issenheim@me.com](mailto:issenheim@me.com)**

**Class meets: Tuesday 10:00–11:50, Room C07**

**Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday (by appointment), Room 511**

### Syllabus

#### Course Description:

The course will consider piano and organ works, especially *Vingt regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus* and *Catalogue d'oiseaux* (piano) and *La Nativité du Seigneur* and *Les corps glorieux* (organ). We will examine these works in a performance practice context illuminated by Messiaen's treatise, *The Technique of My Musical Language*. Issues will include Messiaen's modal harmonies, his use of Indian rhythms, and extra-musical influences like his religious faith, his study of bird song, and his sound-color synaesthesia. Students will have the opportunity to explore additional works by Messiaen on their own, both keyboard music and works that include other instruments and voice.

#### Useful websites

<http://www.sfcmlibrary.com>

<http://www.naxosmusiclibrary.com>

Texts and Scores: All on reserve

<i>Vingt regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus</i>	Naxos 8.550829-30
<i>Catalogue d'oiseaux</i>	Naxos 8.553532-34
<i>La Nativité du Seigneur</i>	Naxos BIS-CD-410
<i>Les corps glorieux</i>	Naxos BIS-CD-442
<i>The Technique of My Musical Language</i>	
+ several other books	

#### Topics to consider:

modal harmonies

Indian rhythms

extra-musical influences

religious faith, bird song, sound-color synaesthesia

#### Assignments:

Weekly readings and listening and short answer responses [Typed & Submitted]

Presentations [Small groups - weeks 8-11 and maybe extended into week 12]

Final Project [Analysis & Prose - due during finals week]

Maintain and organized notebook of all handouts.

Calendar:

Class meeting/Date		Musical Selections	Special Topics
1	1 Sept.	Introduction/Background, reading, <b>Préludes, Vingt regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus</b>	Education, Influences, other Biographical information
2	8 Sept.	<b>Vingt regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus</b>	Rhythms, Notation Traité de rythme
3	15 Sept.	<b>Vingt regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus</b>	Modes, Harmony
4	22 Sept.	<b>Vingt regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus La Nativité du Seigneur</b>	Theology, St. Trinité post Plainsong use
5	29 Sept.	<b>La Nativité du Seigneur Catalogue d'oiseaux</b>	Synesthesia, Ornithology
6	6 Oct.	<b>Catalogue d'oiseaux</b>	Le Jeune France
7	13 Oct.	<b>Les corps glorieux</b>	Voicing, Registration
	20 Oct.	<b>Fall Break</b>	
8	27 Oct.	<b>Quatuor pour la fin du temps</b>	Presentations can come from any movements we have not covered in the collections we examined during the first six sessions.
9	3 Nov.	Presentations I	
10	10 Nov.	Presentations II	
11	17 Nov.	Presentations III	
12	24 Nov.	Presentations IV	
13	1 Dec.	Symphonic Music and Vocal Music	<b>Pelléas et Mélisande</b> - Debussy
14	8 Dec.	Continuation of Vocal and Symphonic Rep. Lineage: Boulez, Stockhausen, Xenakis	