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June 9, 2000

CLASSICAL MUSIC AND DANCE GUIDE

Here is a selective listing by critics of The Times of new or noteworthy opera, classical music and dance events this weekend in the New York metropolitan region.

MANHATTAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA. Richard Auldon Clark and this orchestra can usually be counted on to provide an adventuresome program, and here they offer two in one day. First, in the centenary year of Kurt Weill, they perform music of that composer: "Mahagonny" and the "Berlin Requiem." Sunday at 2 p.m., Trinity Church, Broadway at Wall Street, (212) 602-0747; admission: \$2 suggested donation. Then they take up more contemporary fare: the premiere of Howard Cass's "Breakfast of Champions," based on a novel by Kurt Vonnegut; Eric Ewazen's Concerto for Trumpet and Strings; and David Snow's "On Clearwater Mountain." Chris Gekker, an excellent trumpeter, is the soloist in the Ewazen and Snow works. Sunday at 8:30 p.m., Weill Recital Hall, (212) 247-7800; tickets: \$15 and \$30; \$10 for students and the elderly (Oestreich).

is the second of Theodorakis's "Lyric Trilogy" based on ancient Greek tragedies; unveiled in 1995, in Luxembourg, its bookends in the triptych are his settings of "Medea" (1991) and "Antigone" (1999). In this concert performance, mezzo-soprano Reveka Mavrovitis appears in the title role, members of the Greek National Opera round out the cast, and the Nyack College Chorale and Russian Chamber Chorus of New York sing the choral parts. Peter Tiboris conducts. (Carnegie Hall, 247-7800. June 11 at 2. Performed in Greek, with English supertitles.)

ORCHESTRAS AND CHORUSES

FLORILEGIUM CHAMBER CHOIR

JoAnn Rice directs Ginastera's rarely heard "Lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah," in addition to choral pieces by Kodály, Wolf, and Purcell. (German Church, 315 W. 22nd St. June 7 at 8. Tickets at the door.)

MANHATTAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Richard Auldon Clark conducting. June 8 at 1 and June 11 at 2: Performing Weill's "Mahagonny Songspiel" and his "Berliner Requiem," featuring soprano Eileen Clark, mezzo-soprano Karen Goldfeder, baritone Richard Holmes, and the members of the Songfellows vocal quartet. (Trinity Church, Broadway at Wall St. Admission by contribution.) ♦ June 11 at 8:30: The premiere of Howard Cass's "Breakfast of Champions" (based on the Kurt Vonnegut novel), as well as two works featuring trumpeter Chris Gekker: Eric Ewazen's Concerto for Trumpet and Strings and David Snow's "On Clearwater Mountain." (Weill Recital Hall, at Carnegie Hall. 247-7800.)

RIVERSIDE SYMPHONY

Marius Constant, still active at the age of seventy-five, may be most famous for having composed the theme music for "The Twilight Zone," but his importance on the French cultural scene has been considerably broader. After graduating from conservatory in his native Bucharest, he moved to Paris, where he studied with Messiaen and Nadia Boulanger; collaborated with Honegger on the original music for Abel Gance's silent-film classic "Napoléon"; contributed notable scores to ballets by Maurice Béjart and Roland Petit; grew interested in the musical possibilities of surrealism and chance operations; and for many years oversaw the Ars Nova ensemble (noted for its pioneering work in group improvisation). George Rothman, the Riverside Symphony's music director, has taken to Constant's output with missionary zeal, and in this concert he conducts the first American performance of the composer's "103 Regards dans l'Eau," a violin concerto in all but name, composed in 1981, and here spotlighting Olivier Charlier. Two further French curiosities complete the program: a new orchestral transcription (by the conductor Yan Pascal Tortellier) of Ravel's Piano Trio and Debussy's little-known, ill-fated baller score "Khamma," which was commissioned in 1910 by Isadora Duncan's rival Maud Allan and completed two years later (with Charles Koechlin helping out on the orchestration) but not performed until 1924—and then as a concert piece rather than to accompany a staged production. (Alice Tully Hall. 875-5050. June 8 at 8.)

GOLDMAN MEMORIAL BAND

The concert band, conducted by David Eaton, performs Corigliano's "Gazebo Dances," Auber's Overture to "The Bronze Horse," and Berlioz's "Rakoczy" March, among many other works. (New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park. June 11 at 1:30. No tickets necessary beyond garden admission. ♦ Damrosch Park, Lincoln Center. June 11 at 6. No tickets necessary.)

NEW YORK CITY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

In an evening that includes appearances by Joel Grey, Betty Buckley, Joyce Castle, and Tony Roberts (among other guests from the world of musical theatre), Barry Oliver directs the premiere of a work by composer Larry Grossman and lyricist Michael Korie celebrating the past century of gay life in New York. In addition, the ensemble's founding director,

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Biography
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The World Premiere of Vivien Leigh
Wednesday, June 7 at 8pm/7c
Hosted by Harry Smith

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The **MANHATTAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** was founded in 1987 by its artistic director and conductor, Richard Auldon Clark. Hailed by the media as an "extraordinary ensemble of virtuosos," and credited with providing the "definitive versions of forgotten American masterpieces," the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra has been dedicated to innovative, exciting and multi-cultural programming. The MCO has premiered and recorded the music of such diverse composers as William Grant Still, Alec Wilder, Victor Herbert, Henry Cowell, Alan Hovhaness, Otto Luening, Randall Thompson, David Amram, and Dave Soldier. The MCO performs music of all genres with a special emphasis on contemporary American music. In addition to touring and a heavy recording schedule, the MCO is regularly heard in the New York area. The orchestra has been featured at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Symphony Space, Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, and the United Nations. In 1995, the orchestra received the NAIRD "Indie" award for Best Classical Album for its CD *Mountains and Rivers Without End*. The MCO was awarded the 1995 Lincoln Center Arts Project Award and performed at Alice Tully Hall. The Manhattan Chamber Orchestra can be heard on the Newport Classic, KOCH International, AVANT, VOX, and Helicon labels.

RICHARD AULDON CLARK is one of the youngest conductors ever to appear on the stage of Carnegie Hall. A fervent proponent of American music, Mr. Clark has conducted more than one hundred world premiere performances and has 30 CD recordings in his rapidly expanding discography. He has committed the MCO to premiering and recording the music of young composers as well as that of more established artists whose works have been overlooked or forgotten. In addition to his conducting, Mr. Clark is an active recitalist and chamber musician. Originally from Apalachin, NY, Mr. Clark studied violin and viola in New York City with Raphael Bronstein, Ariana Bronne, and Lillian Fuchs. Mr. Clark is on the faculty of Rutgers University - Mason Gross School of the Arts and the Manhattan School of Music, where he received both his Bachelors and Masters degrees.

CHRIS GEKKER, trumpet, is a frequent soloist and guest artist with the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra. He has appeared as soloist in all of New York's major concert halls such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, as well as throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. He performed and toured extensively for eighteen years as a member of the American Brass Quintet, and was principal trumpet of the Orchestra of St. Luke's. Mr. Gekker has appeared as soloist on many recordings, including the MCO's "Indie" Award-winning recording of music by Hovhaness, "*Mountains and Rivers Without End*". Formerly on the faculties of the Juilliard School and the Manhattan School of Music, Mr. Gekker is now Professor of Trumpet at the University of Maryland.

Sunday, June 11, 2000 at 8:30 P.M.

MANHATTAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Richard Auldon Clark, conductor

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Simple Symphony

1. Boisterous Bourree
2. Playful Pizzicato
3. Sentimental Saraband
4. Frolicsome Finale

ERIC EWAZEN

Concerto for Trumpet and Strings

Chris Gekker, trumpet

1. Allegro Moderato
2. Scherzo
3. Elegia
4. Allegro Agitato

Intermission

DAVID SNOW

On Clearwater Mountain

Chris Gekker, trumpet

HOWARD CASS

Breakfast of Champions - WORLD PREMIERE

Based on the novel by Kurt Vonnegut

Tamara Tsoutsouris, soprano

Emily Wigot, mezzo-soprano

Patrick Watson, tenor

Richard Holmes, baritone & narrator

1. Armistice Day
2. And So On
3. Bill
4. Truth
5. The Purpose of Life
6. Etc.
7. Destructive Testing
8. Blue Monday
9. Free

