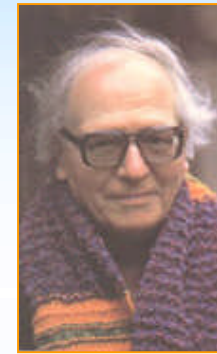




Olivier Messiaen



Should you know his music?

intro

3 things to know about OM

(other than technical innovations)

- ◇ interest in bird song
- ◇ religious faith
- ◇ synesthesia

4 pieces

- ◇ Oiseaux Exotiques (1956)
- ◇ Vingt Regards sur l'enfant-Jésus (1944)
- ◇ Turangalila-Symphonie (1948)
- ◇ Quartet for the End of Time (1941)

Oiseaux Exotiques

performance

about birdsong

10 **Presque vif** (♩ = 152)

pte Fl.
1 Fl.
1 Htb.
Pte Clar. Mi b
2 Clar. Sib
Clar. basse Sib
1 Basson
2 Cors en Fa
1 Trp. en Ct
Glock.
Xylo.
Piano Solo
3 Tpl. bl.
W-bl.
Caisse cl.
3 Gongs
Tam-tam

Garrulaxe à huppe blanche
Troupiale des vergers etc.
Saphique
Asclépiade
Nibçankalila

ff vociféré
ff vociféré
ff vociféré
pp
p
pp
p

10 (strophe rythmique 1)

* Sauf quelques indications contraires: dans tout le Tutti central, de 10 à 22 exclu, le xylophone est forte, si lo.

Vingt Regards sur l'enfant-Jésus

- ◇ Wow
- ◇ Faith "not a single moment of doubt" in his life

Turangalila Symphonie

- ◇ National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, 5th movement "Joy of the Blood of the Stars" [performance clip](#)
- ◇ what is that crazy [instrument?](#)
- ◇ Title – from Sanskrit/Hindu ideas
- ◇ A "love song"
- ◇ Esa-Pekka Salonen [comments](#)
- ◇ Boston [history](#)

- ◇ his harmony: "true, unique, voluptuously pretty by essence, willed by melody, issued from it, pre-existent in it, having always been enclosed in it, awaiting manifestation."

Quartet for the End of Time

- ◇ composed in a German prison camp in WWII
- ◇ an early example of his synesthetic approach to harmony
 - A “stained-glass window” and then blue and orange chords shimmering back and forth (2nd movement)

Complementary colors

Amazing range of taste in
the context of other 20th-
century composers

◆ Schoenberg