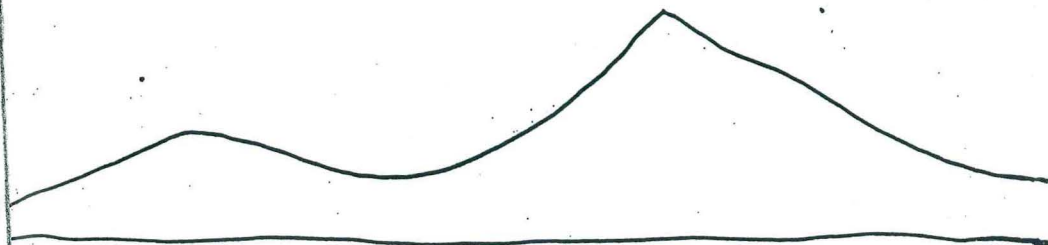


ALLEN SHAWN
performs
New Piano Music

Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at 8:15 P.M.
Bennington College
Deane Carriage Barn



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Allen Shawn, piano

Music by Allen Shawn

Elegy No. 1

Sonata No. 2
1. Largo (pensive)
2. Allegro
3. Adagio

Pause

Elegy No. 2

Nostalgic Pieces
1. Waltz
2. Boogie-Woogie

Sonata No. 3
1. agitato--meno mosso
(dreamlike)-agitato
2. Arioso (molto tranquillo)
3. Allegro

Elegy No. 3

Program Notes:

With the exception of sections of the "Boogie-Woogie", the music on this program was composed this past Fall (2007).

The first of the Three Elegies was written in memory of Willie Finckel, and performed at her memorial.

Piano Sonata No. 2 consists of two spacious, introverted slow movements, framing a brief allegro. The first movement starts in stillness, with fragmentary ideas that gradually coalesce into lyrical statements. The middle movement is energetic—partly menacing, partly dance-like. The final movement unfolds contrapuntally, building to an outburst that summarizes the whole.

Sonata No. 3 is a concise, tightly wound piece, in which two dynamic outer movements frame a central slow movement ("Arioso"). The first movement has an agitated opening and closing, and a dreamlike middle section. The second movement unfolds a long singing line over an accompaniment figure that echoes the restless figurations of the first movement. The last movement has a driven and muscular character, with edgy, shifting rhythms that suggest an impassioned dance.

While working on the Sonatas, I also wrote a "Waltz" and an expanded version of a "Boogie-Woogie" I had written in 1983, treating it like a found object, cutting it up and surrounding it with musical commentary. I put the two movements together as "Nostalgic Pieces".

In between and around the two Sonatas and "Nostalgic Pieces," I wrote two more Elegies. The three Elegies can be played consecutively, but are being used tonight to frame the program.

---A.S.