

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Presents

ELLIOTT CARTER FESTIVAL

LECTURE/PERFORMANCE

Thursday
May 20, 1982

8:30 p.m.
Greenwall Music Workshop

A lecture by Pulitzer Prize Winner

ELLIOTT CARTER, Composer

With

A Performance of Carter's -- "Night Fantasies" by

URSULA OPPENS, Concert Pianist

Elliott Carter was born in 1908 in New York. He graduated from Horace Mann High School in 1926 and entered Harvard University as a languages and literature major. At the same time, he studied piano at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1930 he devoted himself exclusively to music, studying harmony and counterpoint with Walter Piston, and orchestration with Edward Burlingame Hill. After obtaining an M.A. in 1932, he studied in Paris with Nadia Boulanger. In addition, he studied mathematics, Latin and Greek. On his return to the United States he became music director of Ballet Caravan and taught music, mathematics, physics and classical Greek at St. John's College in Annapolis. He later taught at Columbia and Yale. Carter has held two Guggenheim Fellowships, was the recipient of the American Prix de Rome, the New York Music Critics Circle Award and twice received the Pulitzer Prize. Last year he was awarded the Ernst von Siemens Music Prize in Munich, for his orchestral works.

His work has progressed from an early neo-classical style to the development of what he has called "metric modulation", part of a complex system of musical organization.

At one point in his career, Carter believed his vocal works could not be accurately performed; he destroyed most of what he had written in the 1930's and '40's and went with his wife and young son to the Arizona desert. He returned more than a year later to the urban scene with the First String Quartet, which went on to win the Liege prize.

Ursula Oppens was one of "a gang of four American pianists" who commissioned works from Carter. In an interview for Downbeat, she said her "secret fantasy is to someday play jazz." She has received numerous awards for her classical performances, including the Avery Fisher Prize and first prize at the Busoni Piano Competition in Italy. She has long had an affinity for more contemporary works as well as for Bach, Beethoven and Rachmaninoff.

A native of New York, she graduated from Radcliffe and Juilliard and studied with Rosina Lhevinne. "When I studied with her she was 85 years old and still very interested in what was new...politically, socially and musically too." Oppens finds that "new music teaches you how to figure things out for yourself -- which is really what you should do with Mozart and Beethoven too."

This program has been made possible by an endowment from the Callie Goldstein Memorial Fund and the Woolley Fund.

A reception will follow the program in Greenwall Music Workshop

May 20th 1982

Bennington College Presents:

ELLIOTT CARTER FESTIVAL

with a Calender of Events

THURSDAY, MAY 20 A lecture by composer Elliott Carter, a Pulitzer
8:30 PM Prize winner. And a performance of Carter's
GREENWALL AUDITORIUM "Night Fantasies" by concert pianist Ursula Oppens.

FRIDAY, MAY 21 Concert pianist Ursula Oppens gives a Piano
10:00 AM Master Class.
JENNINGS HALL

FRIDAY, MAY 21 Award winning director D.A. Pennebaker presents
8:00 PM the movie Elliott Carter at Buffalo and a lecture
TISHMAN HALL on film making.

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THE WOOLLEY MEMORIAL FUND