Cage & Partch

With

Luke Fitzpatrick
Adapted Viola, Intoning Voice and Violin

Friday, December 2, 2016
7:30 PM
Jones Playhouse

UW MUSIC
2016-17 SEASON
Harry Partch's 17 Lyrics by Li Po (1930-33) were composed following Partch's dissolution with Western music. Partch sought to expand the 12-tone equal-tempered scale through just intonation, exploring 29 notes before reaching his well-known 43-note scale and others. Partch's first of many instruments was his Adapted Viola. Using a custom viola built with a cello neck, Partch fashioned a series of brads along the neck indicating his initial 29-note scale. His first work he did not destroy, Partch sets the music in the 17 Lyrics by Li Po to the poetry of Li Bai (701-762) so the "vitality of spoken inflection is retained in the music." Li Bai's passion for sweet wine, the pain of lost love and his exploration of the human condition made it a natural fit with Partch's music.
Freeman Etudes (1977-90) ................................................................. John Cage (1912-1992)

1 Book I 14:43
  Etude I
  Etude II
  Etude III
  Etude IV
  Etude V
  Etude VI
  Etude VII
  Etude VIII

2 Book II 12:04
  Etude IX
  Etude X
  Etude XI
  Etude XII
  Etude XIII
  Etude XIV
  Etude XV
  Etude XVI

3 Book III 13:15
  Etude XVII
  Etude XVIII
  Etude XIX
  Etude XX
  Etude XXI
  Etude XXII
  Etude XXIII
  Etude XXIV

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The story surrounding the creation of John Cage's *Freeman Etudes* (1977-1990) is as dramatic as the piece itself. Initially written for Paul Zukofsky, Cage used star maps to produce the musical material. After abandoning the piece due to its perceived impossibility, Cage would return and finish the piece after hearing a performance of Books I and II by Irvine Arditti. Cage specifies practically everything in the piece, even indicating the desired string for each note. Perhaps this is what led to its perceived impossibility. Cage preferred to describe it as "almost impossible...an instance of the practicality of the impossible."

Program Notes by Luke Fitzpatrick

Upcoming 2016 Events (BA - Brechemin Auditorium / MT - Meany Theater)

Dec 4  • Intersections: Music, Words, and Pictures (4:00 PM lecture by Leroy Searle). 4:30 PM, BA
     5  • Gospel Choir. 7:30 PM, MT
     6  • Ethnomusicology Visiting Artist Concert: Marisol Berrios Miranda. 7:30 PM, BA
        • UW Modern Ensemble: Steve Reich 80th Birthday Celebration. 7:30 PM, MT
     7  • CarolFest. 7:30 PM, MT
        • Jazz Innovations, Part I. 7:30 PM, BA
     8  • Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band. 7:30 PM, MT
        • Jazz Innovations Part II. 7:30 PM, BA
     9  • University Symphony with Jonathan Biss, piano. 7:30 PM, MT