

Course 6

• Modern Composition and "World Music"

from Bela Bartok to Ton de Leeuw and Tan Dun

Bartok was probably the first who succeeded in integrating folkmusic into modern composition. He is not only one of the greatest composers of the first half of the century but he also was one of the first ethnomusicologists, writing important texts on folkmusic. We will listen to original recordings by Bartok of "Balkan-music" and we will see how he transformed the songs in his own music.

From the first half of the century we will also study Manuel de Falla and Andalusian music and the influence of Balinese music on the Canadian composer Colin McPhee and on Benjamin Britten, who visited Bali in the thirties and played quatre-mains with Colin McPhee.

After the second World War the music of all continents became available and accesible to everyone who wanted to listen and finally the questionable concept of "World Music" was introduced.

We will study the important Dutch composer Ton de Leeuw who was all his life open-minded to music of all cultures and at the same time critical on the use of non-western music in modern composition.

Today modern composition seems to be almost a Global style since composers of all continents are meeting eachother at important festivals.

Special attention will be given to the succesful Chinese composer Tan Dun who is a fine example of a composer who succeeds in integrating influences from music and musicians from his birthplace with modern composition.

Performance in China of Tan Dun's composition The Map

