

OJAI FESTIVALS, LTD. Thirty-third Season May 18, 19, 20, 1979

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> 1980 FESTIVAL DATES 23, 24, 25 May



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OJAI FESTIVALS, LTD.

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Memorial contributions for 1978-1979 were made in the name of the following: Kathryn Bell, Agnes Gally, Lida Izant, Dixon Kelly, Frances G. Leon, Jerrold Loebl, Walter and Susan Scholtz, Kurt Sober.

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SUNDAY AFTERNOON 20 MAY at 5:30

LUKAS FOSS conductor

WERNER KLEMPERER narrator

> BYRON WRIGHT tenor

MICHAEL GALLUP baritone

THE FIRESIGN THEATRE PHILIP AUSTIN PETER BERGMAN DAVID OSSMAN PHILIP PROCTOR

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OJAI FESTIVAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Salomone Rossi Suite Moderato con moto Allegro leggiero Andante Allegretto Lento; Allegro vivace SALOMONE ROSSI LUKAS FOSS (1587-1630)

(b. 1922)

Symphony No. 60 in C major, "Il Distratto" FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN Adagio; Allegro di molto (1732 - 1809)Andante Minuetto; Trio Presto Adagio (di Lamentatione); Prestissimo

INTERMISSION

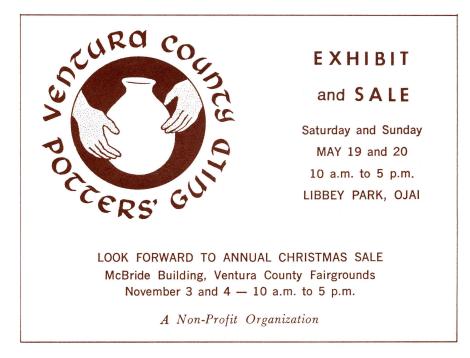
*Lehrstück (The Lesson) for narrator, tenor baritone, orchestra, distant orchestra, clowns and crowd PAUL HINDEMITH (1895-1963) text by BERTOLT BRECHT

N. B. The audience is invited to participate at certain points in the performance of this work. Printed sheets with the music for the audience are available from the ushers. Mr. Foss will prepare the audience after intermission.

*Lehrstück is used by arrangement with European American Music, sole U.S. agent for B. Schott's Soehne, publisher and copyright owner.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Atlantic Richfield Corporation

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PROGRAM NOTES FOR SUNDAY AFTERNOON

by Allan Ulrich

Salomone Rossi was born in Mantua in 1587, the descendant of an ancient Italian-Jewish family and the son of the noted humanist philosopher Asaria dei Rossi. His pride in his heritage is reflected in his proud affixing of *l'Ebreo* to his surname, an addition that has persisted for four hundred years.

While Rossi's contribution to choral literature (mostly for synagogue use) has won him his greatest acclaim, his position in the development of instrumental music is no less important. An accomplished violinist, Rossi founded the first renowned school for practitioners of the instrument. He was among the first to develop the form and technique of instrumental variations. The melodic material of these variations was often culled from Jewish folk sources, and it is this aspect of Rossi's *oeuvre* which has interested Lukas Foss.

The Salomone-Rossi Suite uses some of Rossi's delightful short string pieces. Foss did not orchestrate them in the manner of a symphonic arrangement; rather, he has reinvented a Renaissance orchestral sound.

(I) Trumpets and trombones open the suite like a Gabrieli *canzona.* (II) Woodwinds, strings and brass remain separate groups, treated antiphonally. (III) Implies a lute and drum sound through the ingenious use of harp and timpani.

(IV) Alternates between oboes and bassoons and a delicate Renaissance mixture: recorder (or piccolo), trumpet, harp, solo viola and solo bass. (V) Used in part only, becomes a string introduction to (VI), a lively fugue, the last bars of which are drawn from yet another Rossi work.

The entire Suite is a 20th century composer's loving homage to Rossi much in the way Stravinsky's *Monumentum pro Gesualdo* is an homage to the Renaissance composer. Stravinsky, like Foss, had the respect to leave the notes alone, and to build with them a larger structure which can be played with modern instruments, without the loss of the old spirit.

Of the 104-plus authenticated Haydn symphonies, a special niche must be reserved for the Symphony No. 60 in C Major "Il Distratto" for the sunny good spirits it exudes (all the more remarkable after the dour, almost painful introversion of the composer's so-called Sturm und Drang period); for the uncommon formal arrangement and for the curious circumstances of its composition.

Haydn, in fact, never conceived of the piece as a symphony per se, but as incidental music for a popular five-act comedy of the time, Der Zerstreute. The title of the comedy is a German translation of La Distrait by one Jean Francois Regnard (1655-1709). It was performed by a famous theatrical troupe headed by actor Karl Wahr.

We first hear about the music in June, 1774, thanks to an article in *Pressburger Zeitung:*

"In the Prince's absence, the Prince of Modena visited Esterház accompanied by an Italian gentleman. This evening there will be a German comedy . . . tomorrow, L'infedeltá delusa, an Italian opera in two acts. The music is by Herr Joseph Hayden (sic). This admirable composer has recently composed music for the comedy, Der Zerstreute . . . connoisseurs consider this music to be a masterpiece. It is full of the musical humor, the good spirits and the intelligence which characterize Haydenesque productions."

Like many contemporary films of dubious interest which draw audiences because of the attractiveness of the sound track score, Haydn's music doubtless aided the success of the play, which went on to public acclaim in Salzburg and Vienna.

"Il Distratto" is scored for the customary C Major orchestra of oboes, alto horns, trumpets, kettledrums and strings; the harpsichord *continuo*, stylistically admirable, but acoustically impractical, will be omitted in this performance.

The first movement, with its majestic slow introduction, Adagio, yields to a remarkable dynamic effect. The score is marked *perdendosi* (dying away), and the strings sink to near inaudibility, followed by a subito forte. Haydn surprises the listener again in the recapitulation, adding kettledrums to the orchestral texture.

The Andante opens with a decorous theme, interrupted by rude fanfares, assigned to oboes, horns and divided violas—the first instance of the latter in a Haydn symphony. The composer goes out of his way to contradict traditional symphonic development. This first fanfare does not appear again, yet the horns interrupt the proceedings with unrelated fanfare of their own, while another new melody is announced, then immediately dropped.

Haydn turned to the Balkans for the trio of the following minuet, with Hungarian alternations of tonic and dominant minor. By contrast, the ensuing *Presto* brings more than its share of bizarre events. The highly rhythmic first subject leads to furious repeated semi-quavers in the violins with a marching bass line in quavers. In the second part, Haydn hurls Balkan melodies at the listener. In the middle of one of these, there is an abrupt change of key, from F minor to E flat major, making simultaneous parallel fifths and octaves, and the stamping peasant dance is continued without interruption in the new key. Instead of a recapitulation, Haydn turns to the tonic major, with the brass and drums entering to support a new Slavonic melody. With it, the movement rushes to a close.

In the old manuscript parts in the Benedictine Monastery of Melk, the following F major Adagio bears the subtitle "di Lamentatione". Oboe and violin intone the sweetly serene melody, but in its midst, horns, trumpets and drums interrupt the tranquil mood with an aggressive fanfare, dragging the rest of the orchestra with them. At the end of the movement, Haydn repeats a small motif eight times, marking Allegro in the score after the fourth entry; one of the first documented attempts to write an accelerando.

The greatest insanity of all has been reserved for the Finale. It begins *Prestissimo* with triplet quavers in 2/4 time, but the music has barely started before everything simply stops in order that the violinists may tune their instruments, their G-strings having been found to be F-strings. A new melody of Slavonic origin, employed by Haydn in an earlier divertimento (somewhat ominous in nature) takes the symphony to its breezy conclusion.

The completion of *Lehrstück* (most conveniently translated as "instructive play") in 1929 marks the end of a period of Hindemith's career that produced some of his most important vocal works. The bitter lyricism of the song-cycle *Das Marienleben* (1923) to poems by Rilke led the way to the most important stage work of the decade, the three-act opera *Cardillac* in 1926. Although Hindemith extensively revised this work in 1953, even the original version signified an important change in his esthetic. The ideals of Strauss and Wagner were to be rejected in favor of a new emphasis on the purely musical side of opera, with an emphasis on polyphonic shape and rhythmic clarity.

Bertolt Brecht, librettist for *Lehrstuck*, was Hindemith's full equal in stature. The composer met the poet in 1927 in Baden-Baden at the first performance of Kurt Weill's *Little Mahagonny*, and both began collaboration on a "folk oratorio" designated for Baden-Baden two years later.

The text of *Lehrstück* concerns a pilot who calls on his fellow men when his plane crashes. Critic Geoffrey Skelton calls it:

"a harsh parable on the unimportance of the individual . .

. it seems likely that Hindemith did not fully grasp the message of the piece or the nature of Brecht's dramatic method when he decided to set it as part of his music for amateurs."

Hindemith prefaced the score with the following words:

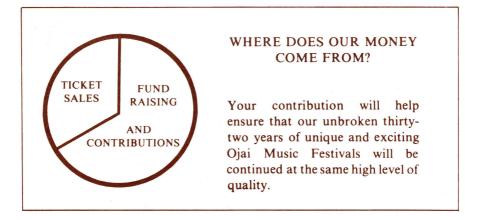
"Since the Lehrstück is only intended to implicate all people present in the actual performance, and not in the

first place to make any definite impression as a musical or literary utterance, its form can be adapted to the needs of the moment. The order of pieces in the score is accordingly to be taken more as a recommendation than a command. Ommission, additions and transpositions can be made."

In light of their vastly divergent philosophies, the friction between the collaborators seemed almost inevitable. Brecht's interest lay chiefly in implicating his audience in the moral framework he had created, forcing it to make an ethical choice. Hindemith wished only his listeners' active participation in the venture.

The scandal which the *Lehrstück* caused at its first performance (July 28, 1929) was owing entirely to a scene in which there is hardly any music. This is the sketch in which the clowns cure a giant of his physical afflictions by sawing off the affected limbs one by one. Such hardened observers as Gerhard Hauptmann and André Gide were reportedly shocked. Brecht was pleased. Hindemith was concerned only that the scandal would deafen people to the true quality of the music and he specified that the clowns' scene might be omitted from future performances.

Brecht insisted that the interlude remain. In a few months, he withdrew his text, refusing to allow any more performances of this first version. Both parties consulted their lawyers; the work was withdrawn from circulation and was not performed again for almost three decades. It was a lamentable fate for a work which is now generally considered as one of the finer examples of Hindemith's *Music to Sing and Play*. It is sadder still that it ended the chance of any future collaboration between two of Germany's most fertile intellects.



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ART IN THE PARK

Sponsored by

THE OJAI VALLEY ART CENTER

In sponsoring Art In The Park this year, the Art Center proudly presents an event which we hope will be in the tradition of the Music Festival and a source of pride to the residents of the Ojai Valley.

Individual artists from all over the State are exhibiting and selling their work in the Art Center juried show in Libbey Park.

After you have browsed through the park, come one block east, and visit the Art Center at 113 South Montgomery Street. Refreshments available.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE, WIND ORCHESTRA

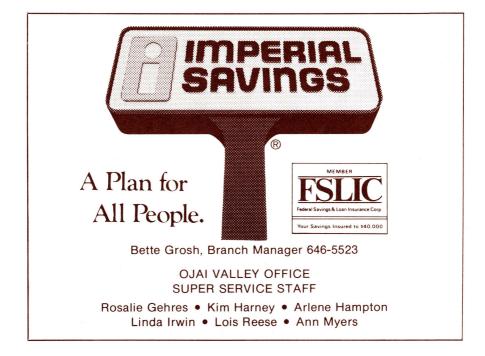
TRUMPETS

Curtis Bechtel John Ribicic Steve Squires Dana Wylie

TROMBONES Corey Grindle Scott Wilkinson

TUBA Eric Messerschmidt

HORNS Clyde Mitchell Steve Rumbold



fele

BEEPD, HONKO, GASSO AND BARNEY

THE SCHMIDT BROTHERS.

 \cap

IN THEIR WEST COAST PREMIER

may 20 1879

DJAI

GNE ALL THE GAS TO THE RICH AND THEY AL ALL GET IN THEIR CARS AND DRIVE AWAY AND NEVER BE SEEN AWAY

ALL-NITE L ALL STAR iso SERVE NO BAS CO. WE SERVESTANS WE DON SERVE GAS.

PUBPO: FOOT A LEG A ARM IS HAT A HAT A HIGAD BA 2 BARIPARS A Robert A Sawsward A

BEEPO, HONKO, GASSO As this music is played, the following happens: Three clowns mount the plattform. One of them, called Mr. Smith, is a giant. They speak very loudly. Clown 1 Lovely evening today, Mr. Smith. How do you take the evening Mr. S. Clown 2 What do you say to the evening, Mr. Smith? Smith I don't find it at all lovely. Clown 1 Wouldn't you like to sit down, Mr. Smith? Clown 2 Here a chair, Mr. Smith Why don't you to us any more? Clown 1 Can't you see? Mr. Smith wants to gaze on the moon. Clown 2 try ug to kiss Tell me, why are you always erawling up-Mr. Smith's arse? You're inconveniencing Mr. Smith. infloantich Clown 1 Because M. Smith is so strong. That's why I crawl up his arse. Clown 2/ Me too. Clown 1 Please, Mr. Smith, come and sit with us. Smith I'm not feeling well today. Clown 1 Then we must try and cheer you up, Mr. Smith. (The scene continues without music.)

Smith

I don't think I can be cheered up any more. (Pause.) How does my complexion look?

Clown 1

Rosy, M. Smith, nice and rosy.

Smith

Really? And I thought I was looking rather pale.

Clown 1

How extraordinary! You say you think you are looking rather pale. Now I come to look at you, I must say I think you do look a little pale.

the wild Clown 2 In that case I should take Mr. Smith, looking as you do. seat. Smith I don't feel like sitting today. Clown 1 No, no - no sitting. Whatever you do, don't sit. Better remain standing. Smith Why do you think I should remain standing? Clown 1 (to Clown 2) He mustn't sit down today, otherwise maybe he'll never be able to get up again. Smith Oh, God! Clown 1 See? He knows it himself. That's why Mr. Smith prefers to remain standing. Smith Do you know, I rather think I've got a pain in my left foot. Clown 1 Bad? Smith (suffering) What? Clown 1 Is it hurting much? Smith Yes, it's hurting a lot. Clown 2 That comes from standing Smith Shall I sit down, then? Clown 1 No, no, you mustn't. We must avoid that at all costs.

39

Clown 2

When your left foot starts hurting you, there's only one way: off with the left foot.

Clown 1

And the sooner, the better.

Smith

Well, if you think 50 ,

Clown 2 No doubt about it.

(They saw off his left foot. Music plays.)



A stick, please

(They give him a stick.)

Clown 1 There. Can you stand better now, Mr. Smith?

Smith

Yes, on the left side. But you must give me back my foot. I wouldn't like to lose it.

Clown 1 As you please - if you don't trust us.

Clown 2 We can go away, if you like.

Smith

No, no. You'll have to stay now, since I can't walk any more on my own.

Clown 1 Here's your foot.

(Smith puts it under his arm.)

Smith Now I've lost my stick.

Clown 2 But you've got your foot back instead.

(Both laugh loudly.)

Ingl slap

Smith

Now I really can't go on standing. For now of course the other leg is beginning to hurt.

Clown 1 What did you expect?

Smith

I don't want to put you to more inconvenience than is absolutely necessary, but without that stick I find things rather difficult.

Clown 2 By the time we pick up the stick, we can just as well saw off the other leg which is a hurting you so much.

Smith

Yes, maybe that would be better.

(Music plays. They saw off his other leg. Smith falls down.)

1



Smith

Now I'll never be able to stand again.

Clown 1

That's terrible, and just when we didn't want at any price for you to sit.

Smith What!?

Clown 2 You can't stand up any more, Mr. Smith.

Smith

Don't say that. I can't bear it.

Clown 2 What mustn't I say?

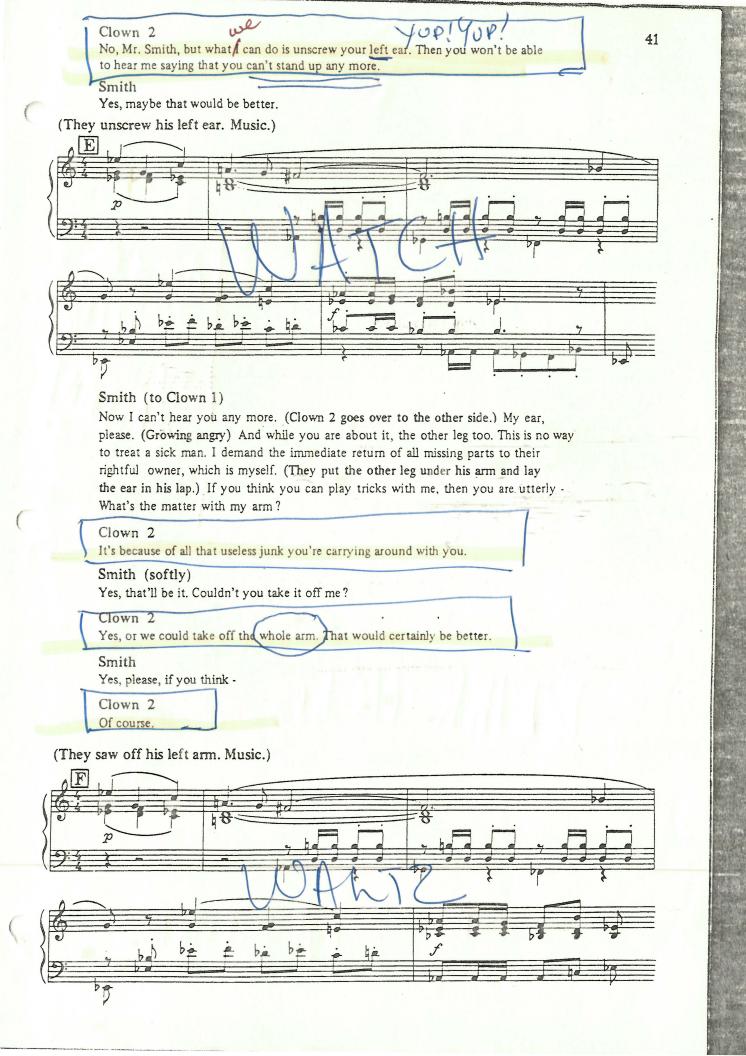
Smith

That.

Clown 2 That you can't stand up any more?

Smith Can't you keep your mouth shut?

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Smith

Thank you. It's kind of you to take so much trouble over me.

Clown 1

There, Mr. Smith, now you've got everything that belongs to you. Nobody will be able to rob you now.

(The place all the amputated limbs in his lap. Smith examines them.)

Smith

Funny, my head's so full of unpleasant thoughts. (To Clown 1) Say something pleasant, will you?

Clown 1

With pleasure, Mr. Smith. Would you like to hear a story? There were these two men coming out of a pub, arguing furiously. Then they began to pelt each other with bits of horse-dung. One of them got a horse-tilber right in the mouth. So he says, 'Right, that stays here now till the police arrive.' (Clown 2 laughs. Smith does not laugh.)

NMOUTA

Smith

That's not a nice story. Can't you tell me something nice? I told you, my head's full of unpleasant thoughts.

Clown 1

No, Mr. Smith, I'm sorry, but apart from that story there is really nothing I could think of telling you.

Clown 2 Sawaff dutor of

But we could of course say off your head, if those stupid thoughts bother you.

Smith

Yes, please, maybe that will help.

(They saw off the upper part of his head. Music.)



Clown 1

How does that feel, M. Smith? Is it easier?

Smith

Yes; much easier. Now I feel much, much easier. Only - my head feels rather cold.

Clown 2 Then why not put on your a? (Bawlin Smith

But I can't stretch, Weth it

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Г	2
1	Clown 2 Cane? Would you like your strck?
	Smith Yes, please. (Fishing for his cap) Now I've dropped the stick. I can't reach my cap. And I'm feeling so terribly cold.
1	Clown 2 Maybe if we were to screw your head right off?
	Smith Well, I don't know.
	Clown 1 Yes, why not?
Ţ	Smith No, really - I just don't know anything any more. Clown 2 All the more reason, then.
(They so	rew off his head. Music. Smith falls over backwards.)
H F F	<u> bo: bo: bo: bo: bo: bo: bo: bo: bo: </u>
	Smith Stop! Someone put a hand on my brow.
	Clown 1 Where?
	Smith Someone hold my hand.
_	Clown 1 Which one? Clown 2 Are you feeling in now Mr. Smith?
	Ait you reening-cashe now and onnul .
	Smith

No, I'm not. There's a stone under my back.

Clown 2

Now really, Mr. Smith, you can't have everything.

(Both laugh loudly.)

The scene ends with a repeat of the introductory march.

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