



Film 6

Lou Harrison and Cultural Fusion

No non-Western musical idiom has so impacted on the Western concert tradition as Indonesian gamelan, beginning with the Javanese Pavilion at the 1889 Paris Exposition: an epiphany. Sampling gamelan-inspired works by Debussy, Ravel, and McPhee, our film arrives at a paragon exemplar of cultural fusion - Lou Harrison - and a pair of concertos, for violin and piano, unsurpassed by those of any other American. The composer/scholar Bill Alves demonstrates the layered complexity of Javanese gamelan, and how it translates into keyboard textures composed by Harrison for Keith Jarrett. For Harrison's *Concerto for Violin and Percussion*, we tour the 'junk percussion' - including flower pots and washtubs - that Harrison made sing and dance. Our participants include the gamelan scholars Jody Diamond and Sumarsam, and the conductor Dennis Russell Davies, who has long championed Harrison on both sides of the Atlantic. - J.H.

This PostClassical Ensemble 'More than Music' film is part of the Naxos film series, *Dvořák's Prophecy - A New Narrative for American Classical Music*, aligned with Joseph Horowitz's book *Dvořák's Prophecy and the Vexed Fate of Black Classical Music*.

Written and produced by Joseph Horowitz
Visual presentation by Peter Bogdanoff

Music by Lou Harrison, William Alves, Claude Debussy, Colin McPhee, and Maurice Ravel performed by violinist Tim Fain, pianists Emanuele Arciuli, Michael Boriskin, Benjamin Pasternack, Wan-Chi Su, and François-Joël Thiollier, PostClassical Ensemble conducted by Angel Gil-Ordóñez, and the MDR Sinfonieorchester Leipzig conducted by Dennis Russell Davies.

'These six beautiful films reveal a compelling, inclusive musical tradition, deeply interwoven with American culture.'

- J. Peter Burkholder,
author of *A History of Western Music*

Commentary by:
William Alves
Dennis Russell Davies
Jody Diamond
Angel Gil-Ordóñez
Joseph Horowitz
Sumarsam

As the *Dvořák's Prophecy* films were undertaken during the pandemic, interviews were conducted virtually and in many cases do not meet normal technical standards.

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Lou Harrison *Piano Concerto with Selected Orchestra*
Emanuele Arciuli, Piano

MDR Sinfonieorchester Leipzig • Dennis Russell Davies, Conductor
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Total playing time: 74 minutes • NTSC 16:9 • PCM stereo • Region: 0 (worldwide) • DVD 9
Language: English

Composer photo: © William Alves

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