

Juan Pablo Izquierdo, conductor

John Root, piano

Jean Laurendeau, ondes martenot

PATRIMONIO UC

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**Turangalîla Symphonie**

Olivier Messiaen

Symphony Hall, Boston

Friday, April 11, 1997 • 8pm

Carnegie Music Hall, Pittsburgh

Friday, April 4, 1997 • 8pm

# The Performers

The CARNEGIE MELLON PHILHARMONIC is an ensemble of the Department of Music at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Under the direction of Juan Pablo Izquierdo the orchestra presents concert seasons with an emphasis on the standard orchestra repertoire and rarely performed masterpieces, including works by 20th-century composers.

Among the orchestra's highlights were the celebrated performance in April 1995 of *Amériques* (1922) by Edgar Varèse at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and a festival of the music of Iannis Xenakis with performances in Pittsburgh and at Carnegie Hall in New York, celebrating the 75th birthday of the composer.

The Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic appears in works on two compact discs: "Escenas Borrascosas" by Leonardo Balada, with large orchestra, choir and soloists (New World 80498-2) and "Four Movements for String Orchestra" by Iranian composer Reza Vali, with Cuarteto Latinoamericano (New Albion NA 077 CD). Due for release is a CD on the Mode label of three works by Xenakis and *Amériques* by Varèse. Other recent concert seasons include "Mandú Çarará" by Heitor Villa-Lobos and "Les Choéphiores" by Darius Milhaud.

The Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic is heard in broadcasts on WQED-FM in Pittsburgh, and throughout North and South America on public radio networks of several countries, and worldwide through Internet broadcasts. The orchestra is a resident ensemble of Carnegie Music Hall, Pittsburgh.

Heard in a traditional

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## Juan Pablo Izquierdo, conductor



JUAN PABLO IZQUIERDO was born in Santiago, Chile and enjoys an international career, having conducted, among others, the major orchestras in Berlin, Buenos Aires, Dresden, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Jerusalem, Leipzig, Lisbon, Santiago, Madrid, Mexico City, Munich, Paris, Tel-Aviv and Vienna. In December 1990 he inaugurated the new Claudio Arrau Symphony Orchestra in Santiago, Chile before a stadium audience of 15,000. He continues as music director of that orchestra, which he was

instrumental in founding.

Maestro Izquierdo studied with the renowned German conductor Hermann Scherchen and is a first-prize winner of the Dimitri Mitropoulos International Competition for Conductors; he was subsequently named assistant conductor to Leonard Bernstein with the New York Philharmonic.

Maestro Izquierdo is director of orchestral studies at Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh, Pa., and founder of the Institute for Orchestral Studies "in Memory of Hermann Scherchen."

## Olivier Messiaen

**BRILLIANT. INDEPENDENT. SPIRITUAL. PASSIONATE.** (1908-1992)

These words describe one of the most important composers of the 20th century, a devoted teacher, virtuoso organist, writer, scholar, mystic and naturalist: **OLIVIER MESSIAEN**.

Born in Avignon, France, he began composing at the age of seven, entered the Paris Conservatory at age 11, and won, over the next 10 years, the premier prix in counterpoint, piano accompaniment, history and composition. During World War II, while captive in a Silesian prison camp, he wrote Quartet for the End of Time, now one of his most famous works, which was performed for 5,000 fellow prisoners in 1941.

Known for incorporating meters and rhythms from ancient Greek and Hindu sources into his pieces, Messiaen's music appeals to both the connoisseur and the casual listener, from the serious symphony-goer to the New Age aficionado.

orchestra,

feels this sound is coming from another world"

## John Root, piano

The American pianist **JOHN ROOT** is one of the most exciting pianists before the public today. He is a winner of the highly competitive Juilliard Concerto Competition and performed Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 2* with the Juilliard Symphony Orchestra at Alice Tully Hall in April 1994. In addition to performing the standard classical and romantic repertoire, Mr. Root has a special affinity for contemporary music and has featured works of Arnold Schönberg, Olivier Messiaen and Luciano Berio, among others, on his programs. During the summer of 1996 he gave two recitals of modern French works on the Museum of Modern Art's Summer Garden series.

Root is a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory and of the Juilliard School, where he is currently a doctoral candidate. At Peabody and later at Juilliard, Root studied with Yoheved Kaplinsky.



## Jean Laurendeau, ondes martenot

**JEAN LAURENDEAU** is one of only a handful of professional ondes martenot players in the world. He has been a guest artist of the most important North American orchestras including the major orchestras in Boston, New York, Montreal, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Toronto. In Europe he has played with the Concertgebouw and the Orchestre National de France. He has performed with many renowned conductors including Michael Tilson Thomas, Karel Ancerl, Charles Dutoit, Seiji Ozawa and Kurt Masur. He can often be heard on North American radio and television.

Laurendeau studied the ondes martenot in Paris with Jeanne Loriod, sister-in-law of Olivier Messiaen and the first leading exponent of the instrument, at the Ecole Normale de Paris, and with Maurice Martenot, inventor of the instrument, at the Conservatoire de Paris.



...the closest instrument possible  
to the voice of God.”



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## Turangalîla Symphonie

The *Turangalîla Symphonie* comes at the apex of Messiaen's early career. The large orchestra and soloists (piano and *ondes martenot*) push the conventional notions of melody, harmony and rhythm—and technical mastery of all the instruments used in this massive piece—to unimaginable limits.

Of the *ondes martenot*, the deeply religious Messiaen described its eerie sounds as “the closest instrument possible to the voice of God.” Set to an intense love poem evoking an ancient legend, *Turangalîla* (a compound

Sanskrit word meaning vitality and life) has an immediate impact that makes it one of Messiaen's most popular works.

The *Turangalîla Symphonie* was commissioned by Serge Koussevitsky for the Boston Symphony and first performed in Symphony Hall, Boston, in 1949 with Leonard Bernstein conducting.

