

A sentimental journey(2004)

The memory of my first encounter with, the Concour, GMEB and Bourges is very vivid. I had been invited to participate in the Concour jury for the first time, which took place in April 1978. After a full day of travelling I arrived in the early evening and was almost immediately invited to a wonderful dinner with a massive multi course menu, splendid but devastating for the ability of musical judgement. The first listening session started 10.30 PM, right after this wonderful feast. It was a kind of culture chock for the sluggish Scandinavian mind, not accustomed to the gallic esprit and pace of work. This session lasted until one o'clock in the morning. It was really a knock out start for me. Now this is an exciting memory like the the ones you have from your military service. However, this was the beginning of a long series of years participating in the concour jury, for me in fact at least 15 times.

My relations to Bourges are very special. I have not visited any town outside Sweden as many times as I have been in Bourges. Even if Bourges is no doubt one of the loveliest towns in France, the professional incentive has been the prime reason for my visits. GMEB/IMEB under its two co-directors - Françoise Barriere and Christian Clozier - have done truly remarkable things, creating the most important center for the electroacoustic artform seen from a global perspective. No other center can compete in any way. For the professional practitioners of Electro-acoustic Music visiting the Bourges festival is a matter of necessity. For me the value of the Festival and other GMEB/IMEB activities over the years have been of crucial importance as the information-source number one when it comes to new artistic trends, new repertory, etc. and the definitive place of meeting with colleagues from all over the world, but especially colleagues from countries I would never have met elsewhere. In a world of rapid changes GMEB/IMEB is a fixed point for the electro-acoustic music community and of increasing importance in a world where everyone suggests that we no longer should meet people in real life. Coming back to Bourges year after year turn my visits gradually into sentimental journeys with all the great memories as a sort mental back drops. I hope the festival will remain forever.

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