

ACS New Music Ensemble Learning Object Preparation

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The ACS music program (www.colleges.org/~music) has built a wide variety of online learning resources. Beginning in 2002 we began to create modules that supported works played at the annual ACS New Music Festival at Southwestern University. The function of this activity is to give participants an in depth analysis of a work so that they may better understand the performance and so that they will have the materials available online for future study. Two of the Learning Objects from 2003 were recently reviewed by merlot.org. The Arnold Schoenberg: Pierrot Lunaire module received an overall 4.27 on a 1-5 scale and the George Crumb module received 4.57. Faculty and students have reported ongoing use of these after the festival performances. In the fall semester of 2004 Birmingham-Southern Prof. Dorothy Hindman is using CDs and DVDs extracted from the Pierrot project for her 20th Century Music Analysis class. Her current students are being assigned analysis projects that will later being incorporated into the online version of the module.

The 2004 Summer Technology Grant was designed to allow Luna Nova, the permanent ACS new music ensemble, to come together at Birmingham Southern to rehearse and make audio and video recordings to be used in a new set of Learning Objects related to three works to be performed at the 2004 ACS New Music Festival. This work was accomplished over a residency on June 17-21 at Birmingham-Southern College. The ensemble also was able to work with BSC Prof. Charles Mason by his new composition Fast Break! which was to be premiered by Luna Nova at the festival. Brandon Robertson, a BSC music graduate, served as sound engineer.

By the end of the residency the group had both audio and video recordings that could be used in the following ways:

1. Recordings appear in these locations on the ACS music website:
 - a. Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony:, Op. 9
www.colleges.org/~music/SchoenbergCS/SchCS.html
 - b. Elliott Carter's Enchanted Preludes for Cello and Flute
www.colleges.org/~music/EP/index.html
 - c. Charles Norman Mason's Fast Break! www.colleges.org/~music/FastBreak/index.html
2. DVDs containing video of all performances is available upon request to gray@colleges.org
3. Prof. Mason will use the Fast Break! DVD as part of his presentation to the Provost Forum in which he summarizes his sabbatical activity.
4. The recordings are part of a box set of CDs that are being sent to ACS music libraries and other offices on members campuses to promote the work of the ACS music program.

5. The modules can continue to grow with new contributions from faculty and students. This process is currently under way with the project mentioned above in the BSC 20th Century Music Analysis class.

These recordings also serve to prepare the way for future performances by the ensemble. During the course of the 2004-2005 season Luna Nova will give concerts at Washington and Lee, Rhodes, and Davidson. The recordings and the online modules will be available to students at these institutions to review in order to prepare for the concert and masterclasses that will be a part of the Luna Nova visit to their campus. (This procedure has already been proven by the use of the George Crumb: Voice of the Whale module by classes at Millsaps in preparation for Luna Nova concert there October 31, 2003.)

In conclusion, the recordings made by Luna Nova at the Birmingham retreat have already proven to be useful in more ways that were originally projected in the grant proposal. We are looking forward to enlarging on this projects and implementing future in the ACS and beyond.

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