

April 2005

**BOOSEY & HAWKES TO PUBLISH THE MUSIC OF CLAUDE VIVIER**

Boosey & Hawkes, Inc. is proud to announce the signing of an agreement to publish the music of Canadian composer **Claude Vivier**. Virtually his entire catalog is covered by this agreement with the Fondation Vivier, including such acknowledged masterworks as *Lonely Child*, *Kopernikus*, and *Siddhartha*.

the greatest Canadian  
composer?

Many consider Claude Vivier (1948-83) the greatest composer Canada has yet produced. At the age of 34, he was the victim of a shocking murder, leaving behind some 49 compositions in a wide range of genres, including opera, orchestral works, and chamber pieces. György Ligeti once called Vivier "the finest French composer of his generation." Other Vivier advocates include Mauricio Kagel, Reinbert de Leeuw, David Robertson, and Dawn Upshaw. Vivier's music will feature prominently in Holland Festival 2005 (June 1-26).

Born in Montréal of unknown parents, Vivier was adopted at the age of three. After being expelled from a seminary at sixteen for "immature behavior," he studied at the Conservatoire de Musique in Montréal, where his teachers included Gilles Tremblay (composition) and Irving Heller (piano). In 1971, Vivier left Canada for Europe, studying electroacoustic music with Gottfried Michael Koenig in Utrecht, and composition with Karlheinz Stockhausen in Cologne. Although Vivier was influenced considerably by the latter, he nonetheless developed a highly personal language. *Chants*, composed during this period, represented for him "the first moment of my existence as a composer".

a decisive journey

In the fall of 1976, Vivier took a long trip through Asia. A visit to Bali caused him to reevaluate his ideas concerning the role of the artist in society, initiating a new period in his stylistic evolution. In the wake of this journey he wrote *Shiraz* for piano, *Orion* for orchestra, and his opera *Kopernikus*. Most of all, it was in his cycle of pieces for voice and instrumental ensemble, particularly *Lonely Child* and *Prologue pour un Marco Polo*, that Vivier's unique style crystallized.

"invented languages,"  
verbal and musical

Dutch writer Jaco Mijnheer describes that style as "characterized by the voice, by words sung in a language invented by the composer, by striking melodies. Harmonized by complex overtone series, these modal melodies pierce different textures, their points of departure and arrival most often homorhythmic. The tonal core, with its leading tone, differs from one phrase to another, rendering it pan-chromatic. This all occurs in time according to a complex arithmetical grid."

Speaking of the new agreement, Thérèse Desjardins of the Fondation Vivier said, "It was time for the Fondation to find a secure home for the music of Claude Vivier, and to find a new energy for the promotion of Vivier's music all over the world. Boosey & Hawkes was, for me, the best choice." Says Jennifer Bilfield, President of B&H, Inc., "Vivier's unique compositional voice is captivating and unforgettable, and has long been admired by the B&H team. We look forward to bringing it to an even wider audience of performers and listeners."