

Press Release

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Photo: Jeff Herman



Phases, the Music of Steve Reich
Barbican, London
28 September - 8 October

New York celebrates Steve Reich @ 70
3 October - 4 November

Reich festival
in Los Angeles
20 January - 4 February 2007

Photo: © Alice Arnold



Variations for Vibes, Piano and Strings

(world premiere)

18 March 2006
Philharmonie **Cologne**

22 March
Cité de la Musique **Paris**

23 March
Palais des Beaux Arts **Brussels**

26 March
Konzerthaus **Vienna**

29 March
Concertgebouw **Amsterdam**

30 March
Symphony Hall **Birmingham**

3 April
Megaron **Athens**

Reich on Variations:
"...old and new techniques..."

Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Limited

3 March 2006 for immediate release

Steve Reich

European tour of new Variations for Vibes, Pianos & Strings

International events celebrating Steve Reich's 70th birthday continue with a European tour of his new *Variations for Vibes, Pianos and Strings*, a major commission from Reich and leading British choreographer Akram Khan. The work is performed by the London Sinfonietta and the Akram Khan Company, travelling to seven venues affiliated to the European Concert Halls Organisation. Following its premiere at the Philharmonie in Cologne on 18 March, conducted by Bradley Lubman, the work tours to Paris, Brussels, Vienna, Amsterdam, Birmingham and Athens in a programme also including *Sextet* and *Different Trains*.

The new 25-minute *Variations for Vibes, Pianos and Strings*, adopting a characteristic fast-slow-fast sequence, is scored for a trademark Reich ensemble of four vibraphones, two pianos and three string quartets. Specifically it was the silvery sound of vibraphones and strings that appealed to the composer, a combination he first developed in *The Four Sections*. Variation form has long been central to Reich's creative thought, and the composer views the new work as being more traditional in some respects than the recent *You Are (Variations)*, while employing techniques explored throughout his output:

"Throughout the piece there is a return of my old technique of substituting sounds for silence thereby filling up rests in the melodic material - as well as adding sustained harmonic voices as each variation progresses. Variations therefore start out in their simplest and barest form and gradually accumulate more melodic and harmonic material as they move along. This piece is the most modular I have done in sometime combining both older and newer elements of my music."

70th celebrations in London, New York and Los Angeles

Plans are announced for three major festivals devoted to Reich, featuring leading interpreters of his music including Steve Reich and Musicians, the Kronos Quartet and the London Sinfonietta. The Barbican in London hosts a major retrospective, *Phases, the Music of Steve Reich*, between 28 September and 8 October. Highlights include a staging of *The Cave*, a dance triple bill including the London premiere of *Variations for Vibes, Piano and Strings*, and the world premiere of *Daniel Variations*, a musical tribute to the murdered Wall Street journalist Daniel Pearl.

New York celebrations begin on Reich's birthday, 3 October, and see three of his hometown's leading performing organisations forging a rare collaboration: the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Each organisation will present a local premiere, *Variations for Vibes, Piano and Strings*, *Daniel Variations* and *You Are (Variations)* respectively, plus a range of other works across Reich's output.

Los Angeles is hosting a city-wide festival of Reich between 20 January and 4 February 2007, featuring groups including the Los Angeles Philharmonic and LA Master Chorale, at venues including Disney Hall and the University of Southern California.

For full information visit our new website www.reich70.com or contact: **David Allenby** (Head of Publicity and Marketing) on david.allenby@boosey.com or tel: +44 (0)20 7054 7253