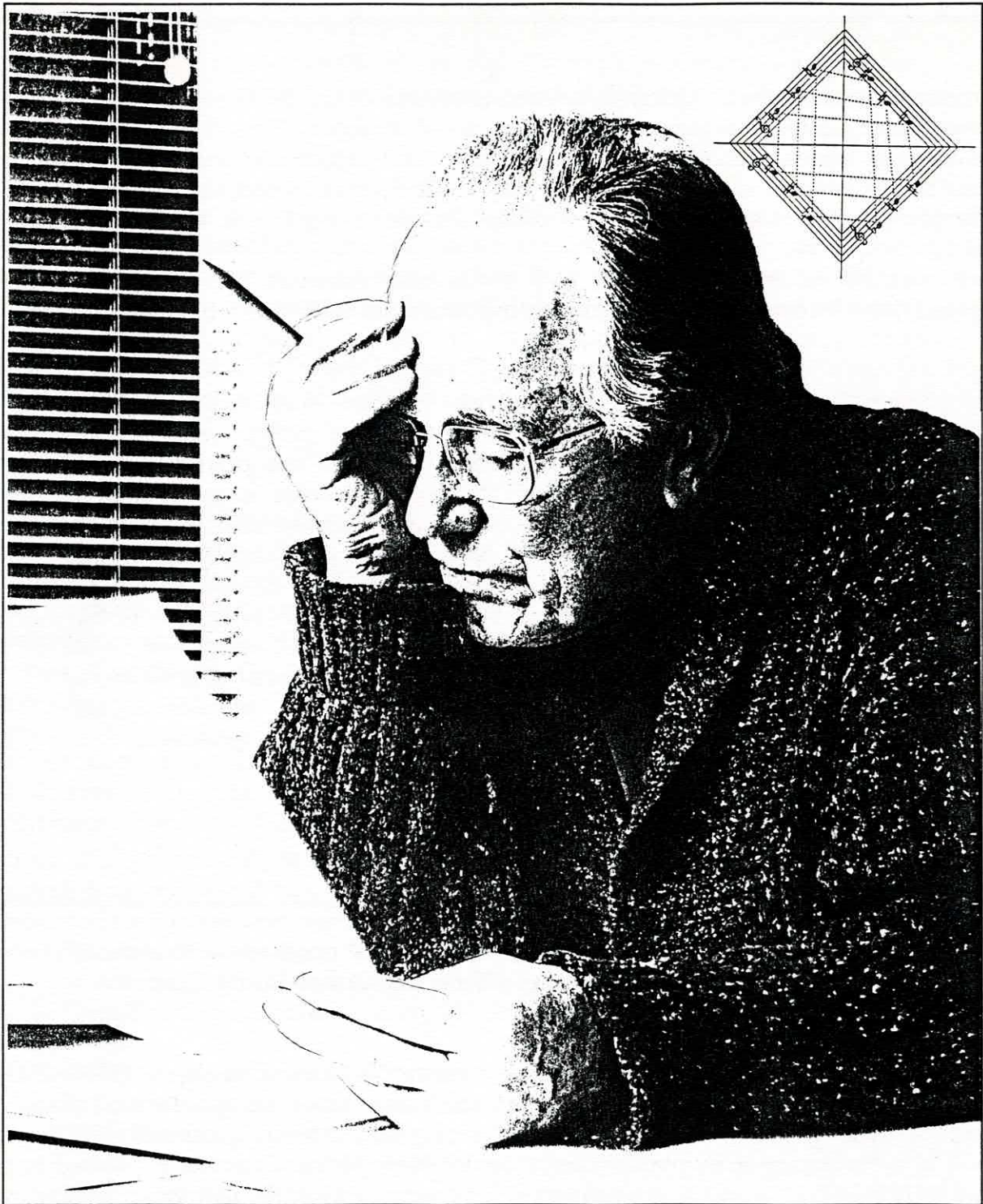


new music concerts presents:
John Beckwith—A Portrait



8:00pm friday, october 11, 1996
Glenn Gould Studio

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Artistic Director **Robert Aitken** is pleased to announce the first concert of the 1996-97 **New Music Concerts** season: **John Beckwith—A Portrait**. This concert is another in an ongoing series dedicated to profiling important senior composers by presenting their music, that of a composer who was an "influence" upon them, and that of a younger creative talent the "Portrait" composer deems worthy of wider recognition.

In November of 1994 the Music Jury of the ninth annual Toronto Arts Awards saluted John Beckwith's numerous accomplishments with the following citation:

John Beckwith—composer, teacher and scholar—has made a lasting impression on the musical life of Toronto. As a prolific composer, his body of work catalogues a searching musical imagination, freely crossing boundaries and styles in its desire to create a music that is honest, original and uniquely of this place. His keen interest in the history and music of this country have combined to create operas and dramatic works that bring new focus and life to our past; his arrangements and reconstructions of historical works add zest to our legacy. Through his teaching at the University of Toronto, where he was also Dean of the Faculty of Music, he has influenced generations of Canadian composers and musicians, from all walks of musical life. John Beckwith's presence, participation, humour and generosity have left a unique resonance on the sounds of this city.

Three works by Beckwith will be presented. A highlight of the evening will be the world premiere of a Canada Council commission, *Eureka* for winds and strings. *After-images, after Webern*, a 1994 duo for cello and guitar, will feature cellist David Hetherington and guitarist Rachel Gauk. Also on the programme is a performance of the composer's *Quartet*, conceived in 1977 for the Orford String Quartet.

The "influential" composer of this portrait concert is **Anton Webern** (1883-1945), represented by his *Quartet Op. 22* for clarinet, violin, tenor saxophone and piano, a work that was heard for the first (and apparently last) time in Toronto in January of 1954, in a performance by pianist Glenn Gould; **New Music Concerts** is pleased to be able to revive this work in the concert hall honouring Gould's memory. Beckwith's reverence for this composer is evidenced by his following observations:

I continue to regard Webern's art as essential to the character of music in our time—not just in the historical phase (circa 1955-70) summed up in the term "post-Webernian." The brevity and compression of his pieces, their eccentric mood-swings, their refined coloration, their fragmentation of ideas (one critic called it "pulverization"), all contribute to a music of deeply "twentieth-century" expression. Moreover a more ageless feature, the detail of its workmanship, inspires awe.

A world premiere of a new work for the New Music Concerts Ensemble by the young Chinese/Canadian composer, **Alice Ho**, entitled *Seraphim* will round out the programme. A native of Hong Kong, Alice Ping Yee Ho has lived in Canada since 1982. She has studied composition with John Eaton at Indiana University, John Beckwith at the University of Toronto and Brian Ferneyhough in Germany... A former piano student of Joseph Reitzes (USA) and Antonín Kubálek (Canada), Miss Ho has performed solo piano recitals of contemporary Chinese composers for broadcast by CBC's "Two New Hours" in 1992 and a recital at Toronto's Music Gallery sponsored by the Toronto Canadian Chinese Artists Centre in 1994.

Alice Ho's compositions have been performed and broadcast in Canada, the USA, England, Japan, Hong Kong and Korea. She is a recipient of numerous Young Composer's awards including the du Maurier Arts Ltd. New Music Festival (1994), the Hamilton Philharmonic (1993), the Percussive Arts Society (1992), les Evenements du Neuf (1985), PROCAN (1983), and the International League of Women Composers (1982). Miss Ho has received commissions from the Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto Arts Council to compose works for percussionist Beverley Johnston, the Ardeleana Trio, and the Continuum new music ensemble. Her orchestral works have been performed by the Winnipeg Symphony, CBC Vancouver Orchestra, Hamilton Philharmonic, Huronia Symphony, Mississauga Symphony, Han Feng Chamber Orchestra and Toronto Chinese Youth Orchestra.

The concert takes place on **Friday, October 11th, 1996**
at **8:00 pm** at the **Glenn Gould Studio** in the
Canadian Broadcasting Centre, 250 Front Street West.

A discussion between NMC artistic director
Robert Aitken and composers **John Beckwith** and
Alice Ho will precede the concert at **7:15** in the lobby.

Tickets are \$18 (\$9 students and seniors) and are available
from the **Glenn Gould Studio Box Office 205-5555**.



New Music

Friday, October 11th, 1996, 8PM, Glenn Gould Studio

John Beckwith ...a portrait

Sunday, December 8th, 1996, 8PM, duMaurier Theatre

Luigi Nono...a portrait

Wednesday, January 22nd, 1997, 8PM at the AGO

Vancouver New Music Society

Thursday, February 20th, 1997, 8PM, Glenn Gould Studio

Takemitsu remembered

Sunday, March 2nd, 1997, 8 PM, The Design Exchange

Die Weltbaumeister

Sunday, June 1st, 1997, 8PM, Glenn Gould Studio

Canadian Encounters

96 Concerts 97

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