



vancouver new music

For immediate release

26 January 2009

Vancouver New Music presents
Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Ylem*
Performed by a community ensemble

Sunday 15 February 2009, 4pm

The Cultch's Vancity Culture Lab (1895 Venables)

FREE

This free event brings together an eclectic musical ensemble of community members for a performance of Stockhausen's *Ylem*. The piece evolves as performers respond to each other, combining careful direction with elements of improvisation to create a highly textured sound that expands and contracts, with the aim of portraying the grander oscillation of the universe.

www.newmusic.org

"Theory of the oscillating universe: every 80 000 000 000 years the universe explodes, unfolds, and draws together again. The word YLEM is used by some people to designate the periodic explosion, by others to designate the essential material." – Karlheinz Stockhausen

Following a two-day workshop led by composer, conductor and Vancouver New Music artistic directory Giorgio Maganensi, an ensemble made up of community members will deliver a free afternoon performance of Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Ylem*.

Written for nineteen musicians, *Ylem* is intended to portray the oscillation of the universe, expanding then contracting the dynamics of the music being played, creating a dense overlapping of sound. Stockhausen's composition provides direction to this effect with a textual score, while leaving the musicians relatively free to play what they wish in careful response to each other. Stockhausen encouraged the musicians to play with their eyes closed, and noted that the work is performed best when the performers "establish telepathic communication with one another", while the conductor listens "with extreme concentration from the middle of the hall."

"The fascination of the music lies in the realization of the compositional concept, which seeks to portray the oscillation of the universe – with the relaxation of dynamics and of density from the beginning towards the middle, and then the reversal of that process, followed by another period of streaming out from the point of highest density which eventually leads to the end of the work." - Albrecht Moritz

Ylem will be followed by performances of seminal electronic compositions by Stockhausen such as *Elektronische Studie II* and a live remix based on sound materials from *Kontakte*.

Vancouver New Music gratefully acknowledges the support of Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage through Arts Presentation Canada, Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Arts Council and BC Gaming, City of Vancouver through the Office of Cultural Affairs, Holiday Inn Downtown, Tom Lee Music and The Georgia Straight.

- 30 -

Media contact: Heather McDermid

Phone: 604.633.0861 • Fax: 604.633.0871 • Email: heather@newmusic.org

Web site: www.newmusic.org



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien



BRITISH
COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL
Supported by the Province of British Columbia



BRITISH
COLUMBIA



CITY OF
VANCOUVER

