

NOTE OF INTENT

Impression

What is one's impression of infant Jesus, contrary games, John Cage, Pierre Soulages, or an Argentinian love song? An explicit answer might be varied, but the general impression should stay similar. However, one might not be able to identify these impressions from works by Messiaen, Dutilleux, Tan Dun, Dusapin, and Ginastera on this program immediately. Similar to the art industry in the 20th century, music compositions after 1900 began to shift its focus from a correct portrait of an event or subject, to a more personal and surreal expression. As he transposed the native Argentinian love song to piano, Ginastera decided to faithfully recreate the exact intervals between voices, instead of correcting the slight out of tune singing into a love song audiences normally expect.

Rather than using traditional hymns in his compositions in *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant Jesus*, Messiaen decided to have contemplation to infant Jesus by merging different rituals and music across the world. For Tan Dun, the memorial of John Cage was expressed by repeating the four letters from Cage's last name for almost ten minutes.

These composers broadened possibilities and imaginations of events and subjects they were passionate about, and offered new aspects to traditions, which is inspiring especially in today's fast changing pace.

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