Duke Center for International & Global Studies  
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ATTENTION: Nancy Hare Robbins


During my recent period of study in Basel I could study at the Paul Sacher Foundation, where I focused my attention on the examination of handwritten materials pertaining to Berio’s composition Coro, the musical analysis of which will be part of my Ph.D. dissertation in composition at Duke. I could also consult microfilmed material pertaining to other compositions. In particular, I could hear an archival recording of, and read some material about, the lesser known Berio’s work Questo Vuol Dire Che.

My referent at the foundation has been Prof. Angela Ida De Benedictis, who curates the found in which Berio’s materials are. She has been very professional and kind. After consulting these documents, I definitely feel more prepared to write my dissertation. Beyond the direct information that I acquired, I gained a more thorough vision of the dimension of the preparatory work for Coro, and got broader insights into some of Berio’s compositional habits. Also, observing the different, complementary perspective through which he dealt with folkloric music in Questo Vuol Dire Che, a work of art otherwise difficult to source, made me more aware of the multifaceted relationship that Berio had with such approaches to music making.

Simultaneously, having been a former student of composition in the Musikakademie Basel (FHNW), I have been granted access as guest to the recording studio of the school, in which I could record some sounds of percussion instruments, such as smooth resonances of bell-like plates and gongs. I plan to use those sounds as part of my dissertation piece The Pit and the Pendulum, which will include some electronic music. This collateral academic activity has been made possible by kind permission of Prof.s Volker Böhm and Christian Dierstein, respectively Professors of audio design and percussion at the Hochschule für Musik der Musikakademie.

Financially, the expenses have been below my expectation, mostly since I could find a cheaper accommodation than I hoped. I attach the receipts of the principal costs – Rent and ground transportation. To these, other 50 CHF for the end-cleanings and ca. 900 CHF in food (sum also below my expectations) must be summed. I did not collect receipts, since this has been a series of small cash transactions. Other small expenses are not listed, as well.

Concluding, I would like to thank the officers at the Duke Center for International & Global Studies for having granted me the fellowship, which allowed me to actually go there and to be fully concentrated on my studies. This residency enriched me both as a scholar and as a musician.

Sincerely,

Maximiliano Amici

Durham, July 11, 2019