

Symmetries in post-war operas based on psychoanalytical texts - Penderecki's *Devils of Loudun* and Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre*

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Abstract

Most references converge in that the recognition of creativity via symmetry and asymmetry relation is essential for the comprehension of the dualism of psyche. Particularly in opera, considered as a world of complexity where music and drama combine imagination and exaggeration harmonically, symmetry and asymmetry constitute an exercise of the psyche. Psychopathological cases described by psychoanalysis influenced opera composers and librettists of the 20th century. Balance between motivation of the unconscious and the forces of destiny in old guard protagonists' like *Bluebeard*, *Elektra* and *Wozzeck's* state of mind, comports with characters found in the operas of 60s and 70s like *Devils of Loudun* by Krzysztof Penderecki, *Nixon in China* by John Adams and *L' Histoire du loup* by Georges Aperghis. Expressions of symmetry like the Spiegelcanon in György Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre*, the use of klang's cancer inversions in Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Licht* cycle, and general adoption of ideal analogies in melody, harmony, timbre and texture elaboration, awaken the subconscious need for symmetries found in nature, like axis symmetry, arithmetical progress and the golden mean.

CV

Iossif Valette (1968-). Greek composer, he is a graduate in piano performing (diploma). He studied with F. Filippova (Sofia), attended master classes with L. Philips and J. Crawford on Alexander-technique (London). He has a Greek composers' repertoire, cooperated with Greek orchestras. He's a graduate of Musicology & Composition department of the Aristotle University, PhD student on Opera Composition (Ch. Samaras supervisor), studied composition with Th. Antoniou. He attended lessons by Lachenmann, Furrer, Hosokawa and Aperghis in Darmstadt. Work premieres by Greek Ensemble of Modern music (1st prize Papaioannou competition), Melos Brass, Alea III (International Competition finalist) and Orpheus Soloists (1st prize Pais Opera). His song cycle *Grafomena* performed in Roma Biennale '99. Opera *LXII* (2006) was an Athens Megaron commission and his latest opera *Ego* supports Freudian theories and symmetry. He is a member of the Greek Composers Union.