

Anthony Hunt poet

Quartet for the End of Time (1940–41)

Olivier Messiaen (1909–1992)

1 Crystal Liturgy Between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning, the birds awaken: a solo blackbird or nightingale improvises, surrounded by dustwhirls of sound, by a halo of harmonics lost high up in the trees. Transpose this onto a religious plane: you have the harmonious silence of heaven.

2 Vocalize, for the Angel Who Announces the End of Time The first and third sections (both very brief) evoke the power of this mighty angel, crowned with a rainbow and clothed in a cloud, who places one foot on the sea and the other on the land. The "middle" [second section] evokes the impalpable harmonies of heaven. In the piano: Gentle cascades of blue-orange chords, encircling with their distant carillon the plainchant-like song of the violin and cello.

3 Abyss of the Birds Unaccompanied clarinet. The abyss is Time, with its dreariness and gloom. The birds are the opposite of Time; they represent our longing for light, for stars, for rainbows, and for jubilant song!

4 Interlude Scherzo, in a more outgoing character than the other movements, yet related to them nevertheless by melodic "recalls."

5 Praise to the Eternity of Jesus Here, Jesus is considered the Word of God. A long phrase in the cello, inexorably low, glorifies, with adoration and reverence, the eternity of this mighty yet gentle Word, from a regal yet soft-colored horizon. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

6 Dance of Fury, for the Seven Trumpets Rhythmically, the most characteristic movement of this series. The four instruments in unison create the effect of gongs and trumpets (the first six trumpets of the Apocalypse followed by various calamities, the trumpet of the seventh angel announcing the fulfillment of the mystery of God). Use of added values, augmentation and diminution, and nonretrogradable rhythms. Music of stone, tremendous ringing granite; perpetual motion of steel, of enormous blocks of purple fury, of frozen intoxication. Listen, above all, to the terrifying fortissimo of the theme in augmentation and register alteration toward the end of the movement.

7 Tangle of Rainbows, for the Angel Who Announces the End of Time Certain passages here recall the second movement. The Angel full of might appears, and in particular the rainbow that crowns him (the rainbow, symbol of peace, of wisdom, and of every luminous sound and vibration). In my dreams, I hear and see classified chords and melodies, common colors and forms; then, after this transitory stage, I pass into unreality and lose myself in a rapture to a whirling, a gyrating fusion of superhuman sound and color. These swords of fire, these pools of blue-orange lava, these shooting stars: this is the tangled skein, these are the rainbows!

8 Praise to the Immortality of Jesus Long solo for violin, the counterpart to the cello solo in the fifth movement. Why this second eulogy? It addresses more specifically the second aspect of Jesus: Jesus the Man, the Word made flesh, immortally resurrected, to impart us his life. This movement is pure love. The progressive ascent toward the extremely high register represents the ascension of man toward his Lord, of the son of God toward his Father, of deified Man toward Paradise.

Program notes by Olivier Messiaen. English translation by Rebecca Rischin, from her book, *For the End of Time: The Story of the Messiaen Quartet*

Celebration of Silence :: Two Minutes

CHATTER SUNDAY

Sunday, June 21 @ 10:30am | The Kosmos

Antonín Dvořák *Piano Trio No 4 "Dumky"*

Lili Boulanger *Two Pieces for Violin and Piano*

Nadia Boulanger *Three Pieces for Cello and Piano*

Megan Holland violin | James Holland cello

Kristin Ditlow piano | Father Julian poet

CHATTER CABARET

Sunday, July 19 @ 5pm | Hotel Andaluz

Nico + Igor

Nico Muhly Two pieces | Igor Stravinsky Two pieces

David Felberg violin | James T Shields clarinet

Judith Gordon piano

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CHATTER

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Cindy J Young,
videographer, tennis ace, violinist and indomitable friend of musicians.
(1949–2015)

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