

Jean Paul Olive

Maurice Ohana: The temporality of myths re-interpreted

Maurice Ohana adamantly considered himself part of an imaginary Mediterranean space which had been rich and multifaceted. North Africa, the Spain of flamenco and the myths of Ancient Greece interact in his work, which presents a temporality wrought from pauses; from moments articulated through silence; from an energy that is anything but forced. It is this, along with his playful approach to spatiality, that forces us to focus on the relationship that emerges between his singular temporality and the myths he redefines in his work. Just as Ohana sets myths in imaginary motion through his creativity, so the space-time dimension of many of his works transcends a simple rejection of the teleological to focus his quest on bringing sound to life in the context of a dynamic beyond musical variation. We will be exploring some examples from his oeuvre which continue to impact fruitfully on contemporary composition.