The Music of Louis Andriessen

For much of his career, the internationally known and still active Dutch composer Louis Andriessen has been understood as an iconoclast who challenged and resisted the musical establishment. In keeping with the objective of the series, this book examines Louis Andriessen’s compositions as a case study for exploring the social and aesthetic implications of new music. Everett chronicles the evolution of Andriessen’s music over the course of five decades: the formative years in which he experimented with serialism, chance, and collage techniques; his political activism in the late 1960s; ‘concept’ works from the 1970s that provide musical commentary on philosophical writings by Plato, St Augustine and others; theatrical and operatic collaborations with Robert Wilson and Peter Greenaway in the 1980s and 1990s; and recent works that explore contemplative themes on death and madness. Everett’s analysis of Andriessen’s music draws on theories of parody, narrativity, intertextuality, and cultural studies that have gained currency in musicological discourse in recent years.

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The Music of Louis Andriessen
The Music of Louis Andriessen

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For Steve and Morris
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Abbreviations

m. = measure
mm. = measures
MM = metronome marking
oct = octatonic scale
wt = whole-tone scale
Reh. = rehearsal number or letter
Reh. 9+4 (4 measures after reh. 4)
0’00” = timing (minute/second) that accompanies a compact disc recording
of Andriessen’s music listed under bibliography

Instrumental abbreviations (for Donemus and Boosey & Hawkes scores):
afl = alto flute
asax = alto saxophone
bcl = bass clarinet
bgtr = bass guitar
bsax = baritone saxophone
bsn = bassoon
cel = celesta
cl = clarinet
cimb = cimbalom
cemb = cembalo
corA = cor anglais [English horn]
crot = crotales
cwb = cowbells
db = double bass
dbcl = double bass clarinet
eytr = electric guitar
ehrp = electric harp
epno = electric piano
fl = flute
glsp = glockenspiel
gtr = guitar
hrn = horn
hrp = harp
hpsd = harpsichord
kb = keyboard
mar = marimba
ob = oboe
List of abbreviations

org = organ
Horg = Hammond organ
perc = percussion
picc = piccolo
pno = piano
sax = saxophone
ssax = soprano saxophone
str = strings
syn = synthesizer
tb = tuba
tbls = tubular bells
timp = timpani
trb = trombone
tpt = trumpet
tsx = tenor saxophone
vib = vibraphone
vla = viola
vlc = cello
vln = violin
wblk = woodblock
xyl = xylophone

Registral designation of pitch is based on the system established by the Acoustical Society of America, e.g. C₁ = lowest C on the piano, C₄ = middle C, etc.

To facilitate reading, pitch classes are designated by letter names.

[] = pitch classes in normal form
{} = unordered pitch classes
<> = ordered pitch classes or interonset duration