

GLOBAL ENCOUNTERS

SOME ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

The music of Asia and India is to be admired because it has reached a stage of perfection, and it is this stage of perfection that interest me. But otherwise the music is dead.

Pierre Boulez

The least interesting form of influence, to my mind, is that of imitating the sound of some non-Western music.... Instead of imitation, the influences of non-Western musical structures on the thinking of a Western composer is likely to produce something genuinely new.

Steve Reich

I got interested in world music as a failed drummer; I was able to look for fresher rhythms. It just seemed fresh, wonderful, more live and spiritual than most pop.

Peter Gabriel

Modernism looked to other musical cultures:

1. To reinvigorate the present
2. As a source of the *NEW*

Question:

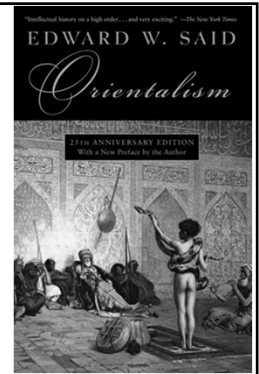
Is culture (and music in particular) an autonomous and politically innocent domain of social life?

Question:

Is this relationship between musical cultures *equal*?

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (1978)

One of the first scholarly studies to examine how forms of language and knowledge were connected to the history of European colonialism; showed how the study of the "East" was as much a study of the West's *ideas* about the East.



Postmodernism looks to other musical cultures as a way of destroying hegemony:

- Embraces pluralism
- Avoids politics and polemics under the guise of "experimentalism"
- Equalizes musics that were formerly of unequal status and power

Question:

Is postmodernism not also a political stance itself? an ideology?

Questions:

Can / does music "reflect" a culture? How?

What responsibilities does a composer have when "borrowing" music of another culture?

Who "owns" music and its meanings? Who benefits from it?