



dance music theater

Performances

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Education and Community Programs



listening
to music
is a religious
experience



Apparition of the Eternal Church

a film by Paul Festa

Fri, Jan 25, 7:00 pm

Wheeler Auditorium, [Free and open to the public](#)

A diverse group of listeners, from controversial author Harold Bloom to composer and Messiaen student Richard Felciano to drag star Justin Bond ("Kiki & Herb"), react to composer Olivier Messiaen's monumental organ work *Apparition of the Eternal Church*. The experiment is to have 31 people put the violent contradictions of Messiaen's music into words. The result is a collective interpretation improvising its way through an aesthetic landscape defined by paradox. Resolution confronts eternity, eroticism asceticism, spiritual ecstasy physical torture. Together, in a conversation that is by turns profound, poignant and hilarious, the music and its interpreters conjure something like what William Blake famously called the marriage of heaven and hell.

52 minutes. Following the screening, Paul Festa will hold a discussion with the audience.

"Mesmerizing" (*New Yorker* music critic Alex Ross)

Presented in conjunction with a concert of Olivier Messiaen's *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus* by pianist Christopher Taylor Sun, Jan 27, 3pm, Hertz Hall, \$34. Call 510.642.9988 or visit www.calperformances.org for concert tickets and information.

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