

Luciano Berio: Musical Influences and His Composition *Sinfonia*

In Rossana Dalmonte's 1980 interview of Luciano Berio, Berio discusses the importance of musical influence on the meaning and interpretation of his musical works. In his composition *Sinfonia*, Berio cites the influence of Beethoven and Mahler, drawing from these composers' works most explicitly in the third movement. Berio, in fact, indicates in the musical score that this movement should be played in the style of Mahler's scherzo from his second symphony. While few could argue with this claim, the effect of these influences on Berio's piece is rarely discussed and seems to be regarded as unimportant to the message of the music. Scholars also rarely mention or relate the text, from Samuel Beckett's "The Unnamable," to what this movement expresses to the audience, and yet the perplexing dialogue between the eight singers plays a tremendous role. I will investigate the relationship between these source works and the text as it influences the message of Berio's composition. Concentrating on the extra-musical meaning and historical background behind Beethoven's Opus 131 and Mahler's symphony in relation to the content of Beckett's text, I hope to discover the importance of these works to Berio and the significance to his own composition, *Sinfonia*. I will present my research to students at Texas A&M University and submit it for publication in the University of Cincinnati's publication *Music Forum* and for presentation at regional conferences of the American Musicological Society and the College Music Society.

Word Count: 246

BUDGET PROPOSAL

| ITEM | COST PER ITEM | QUANTITY | SUBTOTAL |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Photocopies | \$.10 | 800 | \$80 |
| 11x17 Photocopies | \$.20 | 100 | \$20 |
| Audio recordings | \$15.00 | 5 | \$75.00 |
| Musical scores | \$9.00,\$18.00, \$125.00 | 1,1,1 | \$152.00 |
| Conference Fees and Traveling Expenses | \$300 | - | \$300 |

TOTAL: \$627.00