

Simon Crawford-Philips: Kammerorchester och brassensemble  
December 20th 2012

Ives           An Unanswered question  
Copland       Appalachian Spring (original version for 13 players)  
Haydn         Symphony No. 83 in g minor (La Poule)

This project is always designed to encourage large scale ensemble and symphonic playing with the attention, interaction and individual initiative of chamber music performing.

I try to choose a programme which provides lots of small solo roles but which is also challenging musically.

The Ives and Copland pieces are perfect in this respect; the Ives demands three different instrumental groups to be playing in different tempi at the same time; the Copland, which challenges both instrumentally and rhythmically, we performed with direction from me at the keyboard.

These two pieces sit well together in concert too. Copland was an avid advocate of the 'Unanswered Question' and conducted it many times in concert.

The Haydn presents a completely different set of stylistic challenges and we spent several rehearsal sessions altering the conventional orchestral seating plan to allow the winds and strings more interaction and to encourage different groups and individuals to lead the orchestra.