

CONCERNING OUR IDENTITY BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

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Even though we were born – we: the young or slightly older generation of the Composers' League – into the period in which the Darmstadt music festivals on one hand, and Imanuel Zamir's flute on the other, have become part of history, and we are familiar with Mordecai Seter's synthesis as classicism, I feel that each one of us as a creator persists in a struggle to establish his identity somewhere between east and west. For we live here, even our early forefathers are from here, yet our history has endowed us (and continues to endow us until this very day) with a basic familiarity with western culture and its integration. Moreover: our dispersed people are from both east and west.

When I say "each one of us" I wish to include the group of young composers in the general group, and from here on will speak as one of the general community (all the members of the Composers' League).

The struggle is not raging between members of the League but within each of us, whether at a more or less conscious level. At times, arriving at a definition of one's position (between east and west) is easy and happens naturally, and at times one evades it, being torn between the extremes (of east and west). There are those who proclaim their status: "This is where I exist in the expanse (between east and west)" or "this is my point of departure". And there is another situation: the definition comes into being with time.

As much as I would like to be precise – referring to my own situation – it is not easy. For we are not dealing with topographic definitions. Nor with pressurizing any one of us to state his position.

And yet – I would like to suggest that once again we set the stage for discussion concerning our identity between east and west. Not only will we benefit from the intensity and dynamism stemming from what we are; if it is a combined credo at this moment, even though a partial, temporary or evolving credo, our testimony will be an asset, or if you wish, a "document", in the language of historians.

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