

Soundstreams Canada

The Children's Crusade

Background information

Soundstreams

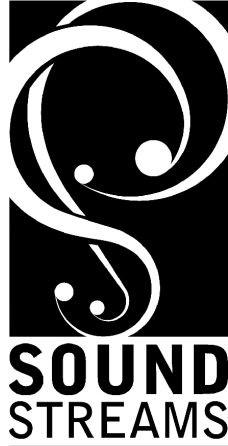
is a hub for new directions in music, programming culturally provocative concerts and festivals by weaving together music and ideas from globally diverse genres, artists and eras.

The Children's Crusade Workshop September 7-20, 2008

The production *The Children's Crusade* will be the culmination of Soundstreams' 26th season, the Year of Voices: Powerful, vibrant voices - men, women, youth and children; Diverse voices from cultures around the globe; voices for Change in pursuit of a better world; and Ancient voices resonating from across the millennia. Schafer's *The Children's Crusade* is ultimately the story of children who wanted to change the world. It will premiere on the Luminato opening week-end in June 2009. We look forward to developing Schafer's extraordinary vision with you through this workshop.



Lawrence Cherney



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Performing and studying with Soundstreams

R. Murray Schafer

R. Murray Schafer has achieved an international reputation as a composer, an educator, environmentalist, scholar and visual artist. Born in Sarnia, Ontario, in 1933, he was raised in Toronto. Schafer entered the Royal Conservatory of Music and the University of Toronto in 1952 to study with John Weinzweig. His contact with Marshall McLuhan on campus had a huge influence on his development.

Schafer's involvement in music education led to many booklets including *The Composer in the Classroom* and *Ear Cleaning*. His works for youth orchestra and choir, *Statement in Blue*, *Threnody*, and *Epitaph for Moonlight* introduce young musicians to unusual sounds while involving them in the creative process.

As the 'father of acoustic ecology' Schafer has been concerned about the damaging effects of noise on people, especially dwellers of the 'sonic sewers' of the city. His booklets *The Book of Noise* and *The Voices of Tyranny* are pleas for anti-noise legislation and urban soundscape improvements through reduction of potentially destructive sounds. The most important publication after Schafer's work with the World Soundscape Project, is *The Tuning of the World* (1977) where he summarizes his soundscape research, philosophies, and theories.

Schafer's search for a 'hi-fidelity' soundscape led to his move to an Ontario farmhouse, which then inspired a series of 'natural-environment' works, such as *Music for Wilderness Lake*, for twelve trombones or *Magic Songs* for male choir. While Schafer's focus in the 1970s was his soundscape work, in the 1980s it was *Patria*, a 12-part cycle of musical/theatrical works begun in 1966. Schafer's dra-

matic works employ music and theatre in a manner which he calls the 'theatre of confluence' (a kind of Gesamtkunstwerk reflecting his urge to explore the relationships between the arts). Schafer has used ritual as a way of revitalizing contemporary theatre, several works transforming the theatre audience into participants.

Working with communities in Maynooth and Peterborough, Schafer created remarkable models for how artists could integrate into the societies of which they find themselves members. The productions of *Patria 3: The Greatest Show* in Peterborough in 1987 and 1988 included the participation of local amateurs. Schafer encourages artists to draw on the riches of their local surroundings.

In addition to prose works he has also written a number of creative literary pieces which exhibit the composer's calligraphy and art. Schafer's visual art can also be seen in many scores which include illustrations and/or graphic notation.

His diversity belies generalizations of style; his work could be described as a synthesis of 20th-century avant-garde techniques with the 19th-century romantic spirit. He received many awards such as the Canadian Music Council's first Composer of the Year award in 1977 and the first Jules Léger Prize for New Chamber Music in 1977. Recent awards include the Molson Award and the Glenn Gould Prize. Schafer holds seven honorary doctorates from universities in Canada, France and Argentina. Yehudi Menuhin praised 'His strong, benevolent, and highly original imagination and intellect, a dynamic power whose manifold personal expressions and aspirations are in total accord with the urgent needs and

Historical background

Historical note Crusades King Philip Augustus

dreams of humanity today.’

Schafer has his own publishing house, *Arcana*, where his entire oeuvre may be investigated. More information can be found on www.patria.org.

Historical Note by R. Murray Schafer:

“There were two Children’s Crusades, one originating in Germany and the other in France; both took place during the year 1212, quite independently of each other. They were both dedicated to liberating the Holy Land with love rather than force, and both ended in disaster. I have based my text on the French story which tells how a young boy named Stephen had a vision about leading a crusade, went to see King Philip at his court at Saint-Denis, and although he was rebuffed by the king (I’ve changed the story here) managed to raise a multitude of children and young people on a march towards Marseilles, where they expected the sea to part so they could walk across it to Jerusalem. The chroniclers tell us that there may have been as many as thirty-thousand crusaders who reached Marseilles. Of course the waters did not part, and the crusade ended in disaster. Many of the children drowned; others were sold into slavery, and many starved to death as they attempted to return home.”

Short Overview about Crusades

I would like to give an Overview about the crusading movement and the particular role of France and King Philip during the time prior to the Children’s Crusade. Hopefully it can serve as a tool to better understand the work.

King Philip’s governing: 1180-1223

The First Crusade: 1096-99

The Second Crusade: 1147-49

The Third Crusade: 1189-92

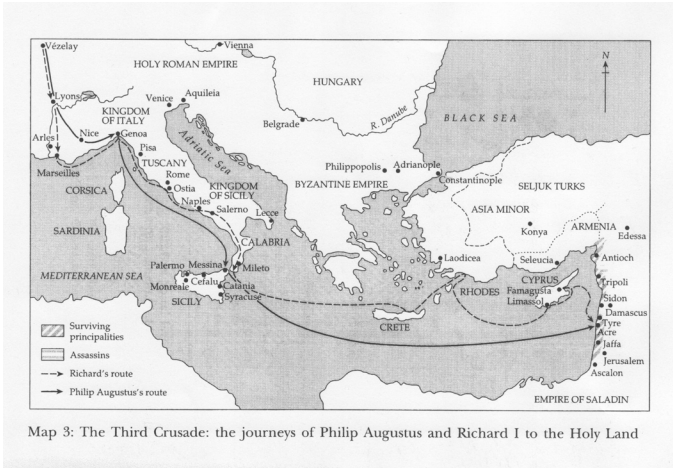
The Fourth Crusade: 1202-04

The First crusade was successful as it included the capture of Jerusalem and the establishing of the Latin Kingdom (= kingdom of Jerusalem or the Holy Land). It was led by vassals and did not involve kings. The Second Crusade was the first one led by kings: Conrad III the Holy Roman Emperor and Louis VII of France. France was predominant in the early crusades and maintained a close relationship to the kingdom of Jerusalem.

The crusades’ movement turned from pilgrimage and defence of Christendom into an expedition of conquest.

The goal was to sustain and protect the new Christian kingdom of Jerusalem. The greatest threat was a united and powerful Islam. One of its principalities, Edessa, fell during the 1180s through Saladin, ruler of an enlarged Islamic state. At the same time Byzantium, the major Christian power in the Middle East declined. And Saladin provoked further battles which led to the collapse of the kingdom of Jerusalem. This was the motive for the Third Crusade. King Philip Augustus of France declared: “We burn with desire to aid the land of Jerusalem.” Philip, Henry II of England and Richard the Lionheart were about to join, but it took them a long time to prepare the Crusade, organising taxation to raise money, having quarrels with each other. After Henry’s II death Philip and Rich-

Historical background



ard started in July 1190. But also the crusade itself was marked by ongoing problems that Philip was having with Richard. They arrived in Acre (today Israel) in April 1191.

King Philip was the main promoter and contributor to the Third Crusade. It was the only crusade he participated in in person. He stayed in the Holy Land for several weeks. The main achievement was to recapture the city of Acre from Saladin. The recapture of Jerusalem though could not be achieved. He wanted to head home due to illness and issues in his kingdom and arrived in St. Denis in December 1191. He reported his achievements to the pope who absolved him from going to Jerusalem. Nevertheless he kept sending troops. Back in France he gained esteem from crusading.

King Philip was important also for the Fourth Crusade although he did not go East himself. He was the king of France most involved in the crusades.

The Fourth Crusade was basically French. It is called the “unholy crusade” that damaged the crusading movement because Constantinople was captured and Muslims and Christians were both attacked. The goal was not only a Christian Empire but a French one. Pope Honorius III called Byzantium “a new France”. Through the Fourth Crusade King Philip could amplify his power

enormously. He was the only king experiencing crusading success. The fanned enthusiasm for crusading caused a positive public response to the spontaneous Children’s Crusade.

Source: Bradbury, Jim: Philip Augustus. King of France 1180-1223, London and New York, 1998

The Children’s Crusades 1212

The research about the Children’s Crusade is a bit tricky. The sources reflect several points of views regarding the people that participated and the destination of the movements. A lot of information is uncertain. The historian George Duby notes e.g. that the Latin word for “crusaders” “puer” can alternately be translated as “boy” or “young man of low social standing”. It might have been the case that later chroniclers mistranslated it. Recent researchers refer to the events as wandering movements of poor people that happened in France and Germany, though without any plans to go to Jerusalem.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Children's_Crusade, http://www.historyhouse.com/in_history/childrens_crusade/

If you have further questions about the historical background don’t hesitate to contact me. I will be happy to research and provide you with additional information.

All the best for the production, Leonie Hentschel, Community Outreach Coordinator, leonieh@soundstreams.ca