



MUSIC REVIEW

Adapting for New Timbres



Richard Perry/The New York Times

Michael Brown on piano and Eliot Gattegno on saxophone at the Moving Sounds Festival.

By STEVE SMITH

Published: September 20, 2011

The art of arrangement, in which musical works are retooled for instruments other than those indicated by their composers, is an old and venerable undertaking. Before the advent of recording, most listeners got to know new symphonies and operas through piano versions played at home. And poaching works meant for other players has been a prime source of enrichment for instruments with undernourished repertoires, like the guitar and the saxophone.

Blog

ArtsBeat

The latest on the arts, coverage of live events, critical reviews, multimedia extravaganzas and much more. Join the discussion.

[More Arts News](#)



Such appropriations were not the stated focus of a concert at the Bohemian National Hall on Friday night, presented by the Austrian Cultural Forum of New York as part of its third annual Moving Sounds Festival. (The actual emphasis of this year's festival, which ran from Thursday through Sunday, was the composer-performer.) But they formed an unstated theme, since three of the four pieces

were new arrangements of established works.

Janacek's Violin Sonata proved amenable to the saxophone in an arrangement by Eliot

Log in to see what your friends are sharing on nytimes.com. [Privacy Policy](#) | [What's This?](#)

[Log In With Facebook](#)

What's Popular Now

After Toiling in Shadows to End 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' 1st Lt. Josh Seefried Greets a New Era



MacArthur Foundation Announces Winners of 'Genius' Awards



AVENUE Shows ANTIQUES, ART & DESIGN AT THE ARMORY
September 22-25, 2011
Park Avenue Armory
[Click here for more info](#)

RECOMMEND

TWITTER

LINKEDIN

SIGN IN TO E-MAIL

PRINT

REPRINTS

SHARE



Today's Headlines Daily E-Mail



Sign up for a roundup of the day's top stories, sent every morning.

[Sign Up](#)

[See Sample](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

MOST E-MAILED

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU



1. Kurt Sanderling, Eastern Bloc Conductor, Dies at 98



2. MUSIC REVIEW Swinging and Growing to an Optimistic Beat



3. Dolores Hope, Singer and Bob Hope's Widow, Dies at 102

Log in to discover more articles based on what you've read.

[Log In](#)

[Register Now](#)

[Log In](#)

[What's This?](#) | [Don't Show](#)

Gattegno, who performed his new version with the pianist Michael Brown. Mr. Gattegno's winsome tone matched all but the most demure feather-stroke gestures of Janacek's original, and his slap-tongued pops were a resourceful substitute for plucked strings. Imaginatively reconceived and graciously performed, the sonata survived its transition intact.

Kimmy Szeto, whose spare, illuminating reductions of Schumann's Second Symphony and the Prelude and Liebestod from Wagner's "Tristan und Isolde" have been featured in concerts by the Argento Chamber Ensemble, performed a similar alchemy with the Prelude to Janacek's opera "From the House of the Dead." Salvaged partly from an abandoned violin concerto, the music was restored here to its initial function, serving to showcase vivacious playing from the violinist David Fulmer.

Mr. Szeto's arrangement for string quartet, wind quintet, trumpet and trombone sustained Janacek's complex balance of anxiety and fleeting grandeur. It was abetted by insightful conducting from Michel Galante and a solid performance by the Moving Sounds Collaborative, comprising members from the Argento Chamber Ensemble and the string ensemble fourbythree.

Mr. Galante's arrangement of the Adagio from Mahler's 10th Symphony, for 21 players, ably preserved, and in some instances amplified, the bittersweet caprice and agonizing pangs of its source. Despite dry acoustics that ruthlessly bared even the slightest blemish, the ensemble gave a powerful account, with especially eloquent playing from the violinist Ken Hamao, the cellist Greg Hesselink and the French-horn player Alma Marie Liebrecht.

Jiri Kaderabek's "Hamoodly Jauda," which opened the concert, began with Mr. Kaderabek's recounting, over his cocktail-piano tinklings, the story of a wounded Iraqi boy sent to America for facial reconstruction. Only gradually, as Mr. Kaderabek's exaggerated lounge-singer crooning over a string quartet's itchy skitters ceded to eerie sustained chords and electronically distorted sound bites, did the work show its true colors as a caustic commentary on mass-media banality and whitewashed anguish.

A version of this review appeared in print on September 21, 2011, on page C4 of the New York edition with the headline: Adapting for New Timbres.

SIGN IN TO E-MAIL

PRINT

REPRINTS

 **Get 50% Off The New York Times & Free All Digital Access.**

More Headlines From Around the Web

Sponsored Links

STYLECASTER

[Kurt Cobain Hated Dave Grohl and Guns N' Roses? Apparently.](#)

VULTURE

[See Conan O'Brien and Jimmy Fallon React to Jon Stewart's Emmy Win](#)

VIDEOJUG

[How To Lose Weight On A Vegetarian Diet](#)

STYLECASTER

[Kurt Cobain Hated Dave Grohl and Guns N' Roses? Yup.](#)

Get Free E-mail Alerts on These Topics

[Music](#)

[Classical Music](#)



Snooki slept here

Also on NYTimes.com

[Why laughter feels so good](#)

[Creating spaces for tweens and teens](#)

nytimes.com

ADVERTISEMENTS



Exclusive offers delivered to your inbox

FASHION WEEK *lives here.*
nytimes.com/fashion

Ads by Google

what's this?

Infrared Sauna Sale

Limited Time Savings On All Models.

Call 877-292-0020 For Free Delivery

www.Sunlighten.com

Ads by Google

what's this?

[Advance Auto Parts](#)

Looking for great deals on parts & accessories? Save 20% today!

[AdvanceAutoParts.com](#)

INSIDE NYTIMES.COM



ARTS »



It's Not Easy to Be a Goddess's Boy Toy

OPINION »



Letters | Climate Change: Science vs. Skepticism

WORLD »



In Berlin, Pirates Win 8.9 Percent of Vote

SCIENCE »



How Far Will Dolphins Go to Relate to Humans?

OPINION »

Do Taxes Bridge the Wealth Gap?

In Room for Debate, a forum on how American tax policy affects the rich-poor divide.

U.S. »



In Small Towns, Gossip Moves to the Web

[Home](#) | [World](#) | [U.S.](#) | [N.Y. / Region](#) | [Business](#) | [Technology](#) | [Science](#) | [Health](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Arts](#) | [Style](#) | [Travel](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Autos](#) | [Site Map](#)

© 2011 The New York Times Company | [Privacy](#) | [Your Ad Choices](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Terms of Sale](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Advertise](#)



OPEN

MORE IN MUSIC (3 OF 48 ARTICLES)

ArtsBeat Blog: 'Diner' Barry Levinson and Sl
Setting a Place on Bro

[Read More »](#)