Commentary on Neumeyer’s MTO 0.1 essay

Stephen Smoliar

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[1] I have one comment to offer about David’s article in response to his request for information about films which used the music of Schoenberg’s Opus 34. There was an Ojai Festival somewhere around the summer of 1980 at which Lukas Foss conducted a program on the theme of music and cinema. During his performance of Opus 34, he had an excerpt from the original (silent) Nosferatu projected on a screen behind the orchestra. Unfortunately, I do not have the resources out here in Singapore to provide an accurate reconstruction of the event; but I shall supply what my memory can. I am almost certain that Foss conducted all three movements, without interruption, just letting the film run, without changing shots for the different movements. I also believe that the portion of the film he used was the one in which we see the Count entering the bedroom with the camera looking over his shoulder, allowing us to see that he is not reflected in the mirror. The also includes a few cuts to close-up shots of his face. That is the best I can recall without sitting down with my videotape of the film.

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