

URSULA OPPENS

PIANO

FROM:

CHICAGO **SUN-TIMES**

Pianists Oppens, Rosen explore 'Night Fantasies'

REVIEW | Carter's devotees do justice to his masterwork

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BY ANDREW PATNER

“Chamber programs in the Martin Theatre give Ravinia a true festival air. Artists are not only allowed to push the edges of their repertoire and interests, management urges them to do so.

Ravinia's centennial tribute to Elliott Carter, still astonishingly prolific as he heads toward his 100th birthday on Dec. 11, was brief but intense this week. The Juilliard String Quartet set the bar high Monday with Carter's Second Quartet, and on Tuesday two more of his longtime advocates played a remarkable doubleheader before a rapt audience.

Pianists Ursula Oppens and Charles Rosen were commissioners and dedicatees of Carter's 1980 "Night Fantasies," and both played the daunting masterwork on their programs. **Oppens, 64, made it the centerpiece of hers, one planned almost as intricately as a Carter composition. Two rags by William Bolcom were framed by two recent baubles by Carter, the wistful "Intermittences" (2005) and the perpetual motion "Catenaires," premiered on his 99th birthday by Pierre-Laurent Aimard. Chopin's Ballade No. 3 previewed Bolcom's own new Ballade, given its debut earlier this year by Oppens. Schumann's Op. 23 "Night Pieces" mirrored the "Night Fantasies."** ”

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