

URSULA OPPENS

PIANO

*In performances of Elliott Carter's music at the
Tanglewood Contemporary Music Festival 2008:*

The New York Times

Tanglewood Contemporary Festival: Grooving to the (Carter) Oldies

By [ALLAN KOZINN](#) July 23, 2008

Ursula Oppens playing Elliott Carter's "Night Fantasies." (Michael J. Lutch for The New York Times)

"Earlier on Monday, Ms. Oppens played "Night Fantasies" (1980), which I've heard her perform several times over the years (she was one of four pianists for whom Mr. Carter composed it), with each performance sounding a bit different, just as a pianist's widely spaced performances of Beethoven would (or should).

If memory serves, her readings in the 1980's put the work's evocation of fevered insomnia in a softer light, as if to suggest the hallucinatory side of fatigue. **The hallmarks of her Monday performance were assertiveness and clarity: the irritability of sleeplessness without the spacey overlay.**"

"In the Double Concerto for Harpsichord, Piano and Two Chamber Orchestras (1961), on Sunday morning, the solo instruments — with [Ursula Oppens](#) playing harpsichord and Charles Rosen, piano — dueled it out alone and as parts of the opposing ensembles. Mr. Knussen made the ensembles' often incompatible meters sound as if they fitted together naturally."

The Berkshire Eagle

New, vintage works blend

By **Richard Houdek**, July 22, 2008

"With the harpsichordist Ursula Oppens and Charles Rosen, who performed the world premiere, at the piano, the two soloists might be compared to generals of opposing armies with abundant communication, but, finally, little resolution of differences. Carter was sensitive in constructing the early harpsichord cadenza to allow minimal counterpoint to the instrument's soft voice, and **Oppens invested the fierce solo line with supreme energy and expression.**"



Colbert Artists Management

111 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019
www.colbertartists.com ~ 212-757-0782