Musical Notes
An Introduction to the Music of Anthony Burgess

On December 19th, 1999, the newly-founded "Anthony Burgess Society" reunited with the members of the Anthony Burgess Center of the University of Angers for a pre-inauguration dinner and concert at the Relais-Château "Le Prieuré" in Chênehutte-Les Tuffeaux.

Liana Burgess was guest-of-honor at this evening hosted by Patrice Monmousseau, director of the sponsoring Bouvet-Ladubay wine corporation, and his assistant, Jean-Maurice Belayche.

Mr Monmousseau joined Benjamin Forkner, director of the Burgess Center, to evoke future projects, including Society-Center collaborations.

"An Introduction to the Music of Anthony Burgess" was the title of the concert of compositions selected and performed by pianist Maureen Turquet, musical counsellor for the Center, with soprano Amanda Broome featured in four Burgess songs. Burgess's "Tango for Pianoforte" opened a program devoted largely to preludes and fugues from his "Bad-tempered Electronic Keyboard". Also included in the concert was a sonatina dedicated to Burgess by his composer son, Andrew Burgess Wilson.

Program (in PDF) attached below.

Mr Monmousseau has proposed the theatre at the Bouvet-Ladubay Center in St-Hilaire St-Florent for public performances in the future.

Maureen Turquet

BY NC ND

"Mr W.S."

The U.S. premiere of Burgess's ballet score "Mr W.S." took place on October 23, 1999, performed by the Pioneer Valley Symphony conducted by Paul Phillips at a concert in Greenfield, Massachusetts (USA). This was the first time it was played in its entirety (there are nine movements) and the first concert performance. (Parts of "Mr W.S." were recorded in 1994 by the BBC Scottish Symphony for radio broadcast only.)

Paul Phillips