

"Larry:

I had a bit more time than usual tonight. I explored your site (Creative Processes) and felt that youthful obsession with composing and composers. You got to me! My father, with good intent, pushed me on the baseball field. I enjoyed it but was stuck in the outfield where I could not do any damage. On my own time I was in the public library reading every book available on composers. Little excited me more than those walks to the library. Beethoven, Schubert, Mozart, and one very memorable book on Debussy's life. I have tried to remember the title over the years to no avail.

Your links I also went to, and enjoyed Mr. Blanchard's interviews. He walks the walk. There is a quiet dignity in his manner, a potent grasp of composing in subject matter. The Hindemith link is comprehensive. I will return to it in time. His comment on 12 tone brought chuckles for certain. The piece on Hugo Wolf points painfully to the serendipity of music assessment set in a war with true creative minds who give all for no other reason than to give all. That he ended his life in an asylum is a footnote very hard to take. These days I wonder about my own fate. Hugo Wolf speaks across time; no matter, give all!

I downloaded your bio. Wonderful life, Mr. composer! I attended the classes (a few at least) when John Lewis came. Jazz was a dirty word in conservatories for years. I remember Robert Ward brought him and clearly felt otherwise. One of those classes Mr.Lewis showed the 12 bar blues to us. He played it like an old friend. I often wondered what he thought of us, young whipper snappers we were.

Your presentation of my works and those in progress I am humbled. Whatever crevasse I am falling into these later years personally, your contribution to composing and its process is a decided bright light. I am grateful, my friend.

I remain,
your friend,
patrick " - June 12, 2007