



Fernand Léger

MY BALLET MECANIQUE: WHAT IT MEANS

By
GEORGE ANTHEIL

My Ballet Mecanique is the new *fourth dimension* of music.

My Ballet Mecanique is the first piece of music that has been composed *out of and for machines, on earth.*

My Ballet Mecanique is the first piece of music that has found the best forms and materials lying inert in a medium that *as a medium* is mathematically certain of becoming the greatest moving factor of the music of future generations.

My Ballet Mecanique is the first attaining of a form that is *not tonal.*

My Ballet Mecanique is the first music *on earth* that has its very germ of life in the new fourth-dimensional phenomena wherein *time functioning in music differs from ordinary time* and the series of deductive and also purely physical phenomena that follow it.

My Ballet Mecanique is the first *time-form* on earth.

My Ballet Mecanique is neither tonal, nor atonal. In fact it is of no kind of tonality at all. It has nothing to do with tonality. It is made of time and sound the two materials, *fundamental* materials, that music is made of.

In music there is nothing else, except *time* and *sound*, and the physical and psychic *concept* of these vibrating the human organism.

Anything else is literary, and does not belong to pure music.

For instance my Ballet Mecanique has absolutely no "forte" or "piano" moments. It is *merely played loud enough to be heard.*

My Ballet Mecanique has nothing to do with fff or ppp. That is literary, mystical, religious, hands pressed to the heart. Music, as I repeat a thousand