

**Claude Side**

from *Capriccio Radio*

By Lawrence Rinkel

Directed by Tony Tambasco

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BACCA Arts Center, Lindenhurst, NY

**CLAUDE**

Instead of blaming the composers, you attack the poor embattled audience for its unwillingness to embrace this cacophony you call music! Stockhausen, Boulez, Berio, the aptly named Luigi Nono. Even your boy Carter admitted half the reason he enjoyed his first *Rite of Spring* was that half the audience walked out. And it's this contempt for the listener that leads these charlatans to write incoherent noise the poseurs pretend to enjoy, but which the average listener recognizes instantly as a fraud. Take this fellow you like so much, Karlheinz Stockhausen. Heavens, what a name: Stockhausen! You know what old Tommy Beecham said about Stockhausen: he never conducted any of it, but he'd certainly trodden in some! Marvelous aphorist, that Beecham. You'll recall that quip on the sound of Lydia's beloved harpsichord: "Two skeletons copulating on a tin roof in a thunderstorm." Very clever, though I don't quite grasp the mechanics.