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MUSIC

ROMANTIC LONGINGS

BY ANNALYN SWAN

Yet serialism and the lyrical need not be mutually exclusive. One of the best "academic" works performed at Horizons '84, *Bamboula Squared*, by the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Charles Wuorinen, sets out to be more natural—and succeeds. Full of sustained orchestral lines and vigorous rhythms, it surges along in a tightly knit interplay of orchestra and tape. An orchestral sforzando is followed by a dazzling shower of recorded sounds from the speakers, which resembles a player piano gone berserk. Strings play a keening melody; brass choruses join electronic sounds in a tempest of quadraphonic proportions. At the end the forces join jubilantly in a rousing C-octave unison. Wuorinen included in the program a reference to the complex, computer-generated numerical models he used to compose *Bamboula Squared*. But that rigor is not obtrusive; one walks away exhilarated from a work that is neatly squared yet bursting with fun.