
News Section

Composers

JOHN ADAMS. *I was looking at the ceiling and then I saw the sky* (première)—3 May/University of California, Berkeley/dir. Peter Sellars, c. composer.

JULIAN ANDERSON. *Dark Night* (première)—22 April/London, Barbican/BBC Symphony Orchestra c. Oliver Knussen.

MICHAEL BERKELEY. *Dark Sleep* (première)—4 January/Birmingham, BBC Pebble Mill/Peter Donohoe (pno).

SIR HARRISON BIRTWISTLE is composing a Saxophone Concerto for John Harle, a work for the Arditti String Quartet, and a piece for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

GAVIN BRYARS. *The East Coast* (première)—24 January/Winnipeg/Lawrence Cherney (bass oboe), Winnipeg SO c. Bramwell Tovey.

ELLIOTT CARTER. *Espirit Rude/Espirit Doux II* (première)—30 March/Chicago/Richard Gref (fl), John Yeh (cl), James Ross (marimba). *Figment* for solo cello (première)—8 May/New York, Thomas Demenga (vlc). Carter has recently completed a song-cycle and is writing a new orchestral work, designed as the third panel of a triptych with *Partita* and *Adagio tenebroso*.

JAMES DILLON. *Black Nebulae* for 2 pianos (première)—25 March/Brussels, Ars Musica Festival/Le Bureau de Pianistes.

MICHAEL FINNISSY. *Shameful Vice* (première)—28 March/London, Blackheath Concert Halls/Vocem & Endymion Ensemble.

ELENA FIRSOVA. *Before the Thunderstorm* (première)—16 March/London, Purcell Room/Nash Ensemble.

ANTHONY GILBERT. . . . *into the gyre of a madder dance* . . . (première)—23 January/Manchester/Halle Orchestra c. Lawrence Foster.

HENRYK MIKOLAJ GÓRECKI. Concerto-Cantata (US première)—2 March/Chicago/Carol Wincenc (fl), Chicago SO c. Eri Klas.

JOHN HARBINSON. Viola Concerto (European première)—20 February/Freiburg/Kim Kashkashian (vla), State PO of Freiburg c. Johannes Fritزش.

DAVE HEATH. Violin Concerto, *The Celtic* (première)—24 February/Glasgow, RSAMD/Clio Gould (vln and c.), BT Scottish Ensemble.

YORK HÖLLER. *Tagträume* (première)—22 April/Witten/Ravinia Piano Trio. *Pensées* (UK première)—23 March/London, Royal College of Music/RCM Symphony Orchestra c. Edwin Roxburgh.

MÁTÉ HÓLLOS. *The Song of Hope* (première)—1 March/London, St John's Smith Square/Richard Meyrick (pno).

VAGN HOLMBOE. *Prelude to a Calm Sea* (première)—5 February/Hamilton, Ontario/McMaster Chamber Orchestra c. Keith Kinder. Holmboe has completed his Thirteenth Symphony and has begun another orchestral work.

SIMON HOLT. *Nigredo* (première)—11 February/Durham, Grey College/Rolf Hind (pno); (European première)—26 March/Brussels, Ars Musica Festival/Rolf Hind.

DAVID JOHNSON. 12 Preludes & Fugues (première)—23 March/Edinburgh, Reid Concert Hall/Peter Evans (piano).

MAGNUS LINDBERG. *Coyote Blues* (US première)—21 February/New York/Juilliard Ensemble c. Joel Sachs.

JONATHAN LLOYD is writing a new work for flute and string orchestra.

JOHN McCABE. Symphony No.4, *Of Time and the River* (UK première)—17 May/London, Royal Festival Hall/BBC Symphony Orchestra c. Eduardo Mata.

STEVEN MACKEY. *Deal* (première)—17 April/Los Angeles/Los Angeles PO c. Esa-Pekka Salonen.

JAMES MACMILLAN. Brass Quintet (première)—28 March/Edinburgh/Members of Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Macmillan is completing a new work, *Mairi*, for the BBC Singers to be premiered on 19 May at St John's Smith Square in London.

SIR PETER MAXWELL DAVIES. Strathclyde Concerto No.9 for 6 woodwind instruments (première)—10 March/Glasgow/Scottish Chamber Orchestra c. composer. *The Beltane Fire* (première)—3 April/Boston/BBC Philharmonic c. composer. Trumpet Concerto (US première)—19 March/Los Angeles/Hakan Hardenberger (tpt), BBC Philharmonic c. composer. Symphony No.5 (US première)—9 April/New York/BBC Philharmonic c. composer.

JOHN MAXWELL GEDDES. Oboe Concerto (première)—26 February/Glasgow, RSAMD/Jonathan Small (ob), Paragon Ensemble c. David Davies.

OLIVIER MESSIAEN (d.1992). *Chant des Déportés* (UK première)—22 March/London, Royal Festival Hall/BBC Singers and SO c. Andrew Davis.

THEA MUSGRAVE. *Simón Bolívar* (première)—20 January/Norfolk, VA/Virginia Opera c. Peter Mark.

CONLON NANCARROW. Study for Orchestra (première)—23 April/New York/New Juilliard Ensemble c. Joel Sachs.

ARVO PÄRT. *Litany* (UK première)—22 April/London, Queen Elizabeth Hall/LPO c. composer.

STEPHEN PAULUS. *The Woodlanders* (UK première)—22 February/Oxford/Oxford University Opera c. Sarah Ionnides.

ELIS PEHKONEN. *An Orkney Calendar* (première)—5 March/

London, St John's Smith Square/New London Children's Choir and New London Orchestra c. Ronald Corp.

STEVE REICH. *City Life* (première)—7 March/Metz/Ensemble InterContemporain c. David Robertson; (German première)—11 March/Cologne/Ensemble Modern c. Sian Edwards; (UK première)—10 May/London, Queen Elizabeth Hall/London Sinfonietta c. Markus Stenz.

WOLFGANG RIHM. *Time Chant* (UK première)—3 May/London, Royal Festival Hall/Anne-Sophie Mutter (vln), Philharmonia c. Semyon Bychkov.

CHRISTOPHER ROUSE. *Symphony No.2* (première)—4 March/Houston, Texas/Houston Symphony c. Christoph Eschenbach.

AULIS SALLINEN. *Songs of Life and Death* (première)—18 January/Helsinki/Jorma Hynninen (bar), Helsinki Opera Festival Chorus, Helsinki PO c. Okku Kamu.

ROBERT SAXTON. *A Yardstick of the Stars* (première)—28 February/Durham/Nash Ensemble.

ALFRED SCHNITTKE. *Concerto Grosso No.5* (UK première)—22 March/London, Barbican/Gidon Kremer (vln), LSO c. Michael Tilson Thomas. *Life with an Idiot* (UK première)—1 April/London, Coliseum/English National Opera c. Richard Armstrong. *Gesualdo* (première)—26 May/Vienna, Staatsoper/State Opera c. Mstislav Rostropovich.

VALENTIN SILVESTROV. *Intermezzo* (première)—21 February/New York/Juilliard Ensemble c. Joel Sachs.

HOWARD SKEMPTON. *Lyric* (première)—27 January/Bromsgrove/Borante Piano Trio. *Sleigh Ride* (première)—5 February/London, ICA/Ensemble Bash. Piano Quintet (première)—24 March/Bromsgrove/Schubert Ensemble. Chamber Concerto (première)—6 May/Brighton Festival/Cambridge New Music Players.

PAVEL SZYMANSKI. *Through the Looking Glass . . . III* (première)—11 January/Paris, Centre Pompidou/Elzbieta Chojnacka (hpschd). Piano Concerto (première)—12 February/Paris/Eva Pobjocka (pno), Katowice Rado SO c. Antoni Wit.

TAN DUN. *Ghost Opera* (première)—17 February/New York/Kronos Quartet with Wu Man (pipa).

SIR MICHAEL TIPPETT. *A Child of Our Time* (Berlin première)—7 January/Philharmonie/Janet Williams, Iris Vermillion, Philip Angridge, Andreas Schmidt, Berlin Radio Choir and Deutsche SO Berlin c. Vladimir Ashkenazy. *The Rose Lake* (première)—19 February/London, Barbican Hall/LSO c. Sir Colin Davis.

MICHAEL TORKE. *King of Hearts*, television opera (première)—12 February/Channel 4 Television broadcast.

JOAN TOWER. Concerto for Chamber Orchestra (première)—23 January/Los Angeles/Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra c. Christoph Peck. *For the Uncommon Woman* (première)—27 January/Lake Forest, Illinois/Lake Forest Symphony c. Paul Anthony McCrae.

ERKKI-SVEN TÖÖR. *Architectonics II* (UK première)—26 February/London, ICA/Gemini. *Spectrum* (UK première)—27 April/London, Royal Festival Hall/Christopher Bowers-Broadbent (organ).

GALINA USTVOLSKAYA. *Symphony No.2, Dies Irae* (UK première)—12 February/London, Royal Festival Hall/Philharmonia c. James Macmillan. *Symphony No.4, Prayer* (UK première)—26 February/London, ICA/Gemini.

JUDITH WEIR has been appointed Fairbairn Composer in Association by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. She is currently composing a new orchestral work for the CBSO.

GRAHAM WILLIAMS. *A Song for Christina Rossetti* (première)—26 February/London, Jacksons Lane Theatre/Kirsten Sprat (fl), Rachel Bolt (vla), Ruth Holden (hp).

Books received

(A listing in this column does not preclude a review in a future issue of *Tempo*.)

Fairest Isle: The BBC Radio 3 Book of British Music edited by David Fraser. BBC Radio 3/BBC Books, £6.99.

Edward Elgar – A Source Book compiled by Stewart R. Craggs. Scholar Press, £45.00.

Poles Apart: The Music of Roger Smalley edited by Judy Thonell. Evos Music, Perth, Western Australia, \$Aus.30.

Wishing On the Moon: The Life and Times of Billie Holiday by Donald Clarke. Penguin, £6.99.

Cradles of the New: Writings on Music 1951-1991 by Donald Mitchell, edited by Christopher Palmer. Faber, £35.00 (hardback), £19.99 (paperback).

Pet Shop Boys versus America by Chris Heath with photographs by Pennie Smith. Penguin, £10.00.

Bryan Adams: A Fretted Biography by Mark Duffett. Duff Press, no price quoted.

Fenmenologia della musica sperimentale by Angelo Orcalli. Sonus Edizioni Musicali, Potenza, L.28.000.

Webern and the Lyric Impulse: Songs and Fragments on Poems of Georg Trakl by Anne C. Shreffler. Oxford University Press, £35.00.

obscurity that Munro has no idea where her unpublished music may be) to post-avant-garde impressionism by Gordon Kerry (b.1961) and abrasive, flintily dissonant sonatas by Keith Humble (No.3, in memory of Bill Hopkins, is especially impressive). There are also civilized, enjoyable works by Peter Sculthorpe, Malcolm Williamson (how deft, how companionably Stravinskian, his early first Piano Sonata sounds!) and Roger Smalley. When one recalls the Smalley of Intermodulation, erstwhile white hope of the British avant-garde in the early 1970s, its seems scarcely credible that by the late 80s he was composing a *Variations on a Theme of Chopin*, an Alkanesque-cum-Godowskian fantasy on a Chopin Mazurka in a vein one would imagine more congenial to – well, Ronald Stevenson, say. Perhaps pianist-composers are ever drawn back to the re-polish the cornerstones of their literature. At all events it's an impressive feat of bravura composition, with a suddenly-stilled poetic epilogue of uneasy pathos. The whole programme is excellently played and recorded; Tall Poppies have an extensive catalogue of modern piano music,* and I hope to review more from the same source.

Calum MacDonald