

BRITISH PREMIERE

"The bridge of ice from England into France,
it is complete at last.
It didn't cost much, it cost everything.
The price was England."

The Guide, Act 1, Scene 4

Conductor **Okko Kamu**
Producer **Nicholas Hytner**
Designer **Bob Crowley**
Lighting **Robert Bryan**

Cast includes
Mikael Melbye
Stafford Dean
Eileen Hannan
Valerie Masterson

Jane Turner
Sarah Walker
Kim Begley
Donald Maxwell
Ian McDiarmid

Jointly commissioned by the Royal Opera House, Savonlinna Festival and the BBC
Sponsored by The Royal Opera House Trust (1987)

April 1, 3, 6, 9, 11, 13 at 7.30pm



Seats: £1-£23.50

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Royal
Opera
House
Covent Garden



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AARON COPLAND

Piano Album

edited by Leo Smit

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Tempo

A QUARTERLY REVIEW OF MODERN MUSIC

EDITOR: CALUM MACDONALD

Price £1.20 (plus postage)—Annual Subscription £6.00 (UK), £7.00 (overseas)

Editorial and U.K. Subscriptions Office

295 Regent Street, London W1R 8JH

Tel: 01-580 2060

Advertising

Arthur Boyars

4 Hollywood Mews, London SW10 9HU Tel: 01-352 6400

Overseas Subscriptions

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THE LAUREL IN RACKWICK

Slow and serene for centuries

Imagine those

Rackwick fishermen-crofters and their folk,

Ploughing and setting creels, bound but obedient to

Each quarter of the

Turning year; transmuted the hardship with fiddle and dance

Every Harvest-home and Hogmanay; then

Returning, that festival over, to the wheel of labour.

Many difficulties, many consolations.

And they had little to fear

X-cept black clouds at haytime or harvest or over the boats at sea, or

When snow cut bitterly into the March lambs.

Especially to be feared a bad

Landlord, who could sour their meaningful

Labour with ruinous rent-roll.

Delighted they'd have been,

All the Rackwick folk of old –

Very proud that one from their own valley

Is the new knight of music

Esteemed world-wide beyond the ancient “tyrants of the glebe”.

Song is laurelled well, this winter, in Rackwick.

George Mackay Brown

1st January 1987