Composers

THOMAS ADÉS. Still Sorrowing Love Me (extract from opera; première)—23 July/Almeida Theatre, The Origin of the Harp (prière)—6 October/Manchester/Halle Orchestra c. John Nelson. Arcadia (prière)—16 November/Cambridge Elgar Festival/Endellion Quartet.

FRANGIZ ALI-ZADE. Dilogy II (UK première)—9 July/Almeida Theatre/Endymion Ensemble c. Nicholas Kok.


DOMINICK ARGENTO. Valentino Dances (prière)—13 July/Minneapolis/Minnesota Orchestra c. David Zinman.


RICHARD BARRETT. alba (prière)—15 May/Paris/Pascal Gallon (vln).

SALLY BEAMISH. Love is Leaping (prière)—9 July/Westminster Central Hall/Crouch End Festival Chorus, Salomon Orchestra.

NIELS VIGGO BENTZON. Enzymes, op.583 (prière)—19 June/Denmark, Frederik's Basion/composer (pno).

MICHAEL BERKELEY. Viola Concerto (UK première)—16 July/Lichfield Festival/Roger Benedict (vla), Philharmonia Orchestra c. composer. Odd Man Out for solo viola (prière)—27 August/Isle of Man, Lionel Tettis Viola Competition.

THEO BRANDMÜLLER. Symbolum Nicenum (prière)—3 September/Maulbronn/Kölner Kantorei c. Volker Hempling.

JOHN BULLER. Mr. Purcell's Maggot (prière)—29 June/London, Spitalfields Festival/Joyful Company of Singers, City of London Sinfonia c. Mark Elder.

MARTIN BUTLER. Night Machines (UK première)—4 November/Oxford Contemporary Music Festival/Festival Ensemble.


ELIOTT CARTER. 90+ (prière)—12 June/Pontino Festival/Giuseppe Scotto (pno).


CLAUS CORNELL. Aria: A Prayer (prière)—7 July/Winwick & Leamington Festival/Corning Quartet.

STEVE CROWTHER. A Song for Salford (prière)—13 May/York, Soundpool Festival/Bingham String Quartet.

EDISON DENISOV. Histoire vom Leben und Sterben unseres Herrn Jesus Christus (prière)—14 September/Frankfurt/solos, Moscow Choral Art Academy Choir, Saar Radio SO c. Viktor Popov.

JONATHAN DOVE. Siren Song (prière)—15 July/Almeida Theatre/Almeida Opera c. Paul McGrath.

MIREILLE FINNISSY. Traum des Singers (prière)—24 October/London, Purcell Room/Ixion.

CHRISTOPHER FOX. Stone, Wind, Rain, Sun (prière of version for trombone and tape)—30 April/York, Soundpool Festival/Barrie Webb (vln).

JANE GARDNER. Thrum (prière)—30 April/York, Soundpool Festival/Barrie Webb (vln).

ALEXANDER GORBY. Colossus or Panic (UK première)—2 August/London, Royal Albert Hall Proms/BBC Symphony Orchestra c. Oliver Knussen.

ADAM GORB. Viola Concerto (prière)—25 June/Birkenhead Town Hall/Martin Outram (vla), Liverpool Mozart Orchestra c. Charles Peabody.

HENRYK MIKOLAJ GÓRECKI. Symphony No.3 (Brazilian première)—16 July/Sao Paolo/Katowice RO c. Antoni Wit; (Canadian première)—21 September/Toronto/Valdine Anderson (sp), Toronto SO c. Stanislaw Skrowaczewski.

HK GRUBER. Gloria von Jaxter (prière)—17 November/Huddersfield Festival (Kirklees Theatre)/Opera North c. Stefan Asbury.

HANS WERNER HENZE. Introduzione, Tema und Variationen for cello, harp and strings (prière)—25 August/Salzburg Festival/Christoph Richter (vcl). Camerata Academica Salzburg c. Sándor Véghei. Henze is composing an opera on Venus and Adonis for the Bavarian State Opera in Munich.

ROBIN HOLLOWAY. Horn Concerto (Dutch première)—1 June/Groningen/Barry Tuckwell, North Netherlands Orchestra.

ADRIANA HÖLSZKY. An die Nacht (prière)—6 September/Helsinki Festival/Finnish Radio SO c. Sakari Oramo.
DAVID HORNE has won the Stephen Oliver Opera Prize for his opera Travellers, with a libretto by A.N. Wilson. Horne is currently composing a percussion work for Evelyn Glennie and an orchestral work for the RPO.


DAVID HUSH. Partita No.1 for solo cello (première)—23 May/New York, Sylvia and Danny Kaye Playhouse/Carter Brey (vc).

JEFFREY JOSEPH. String Quartet (première)—24 July/London, Blackheath Concert Hall/Achaeus String Quartet.

VOLKER DAVID KIRCHNER. Hottus magico (première)—14 August/Trossingen/Bundesjugendorchester c. Gerard Albrecht.


JONATHAN LLOYD. Your people your dreams (première)—24 June/Aldeburgh Festival/Barbara Beartrick, Britten-Pears Ensemble.

JAMES MACMILLAN. Britannia (première)—24 September/London, Barbican/LSO c. Michael Tilson Thomas.

TIGRAN MANSURYAN. Toem (UK première)—9 July/Almeida Theatre/Enyemion Ensemble c. Nicholas Kok.

STEVE MARTLAND. Horses of Instruction (première)—4 August/Tanglewood/Bang on a Can All Stars.

COLIN MATTHEWS. String Quartet No.3 (première)—14 June/Aldeburgh Festival/Brindist Quartet. Matthews is composing a new work for Patricia Kwella and the Allegri Quartet.

DAVID MATTHEWS. Adagio for string quartet (première)—23 August/Vale of Glamorgan Festival/Brodky Quartet.

NICHOLAS MAW. Odyssey (US première)—October/St. Louis, Missouri/St. Louis SO c. Leonard Slatkin. Maw is completing his Third String Quartet, for the Coull Quartet, and is also composing short works for the Philharmonia and the BBC Symphony Orchestra.


MICHAEL NYMAN. Three Quartets (première)—15 July/Tokyo/Balanscua Quartet.

ROBIN ORR. Three Lyric Pieces (UK première)—13 November/Cambridge Elgar Festival/Roy Howat (pno).

NIGEL OSBORNE. Sarajevo, an operatic trilogy (première)—23 August/London, Queen Elizabeth hall/Olafur Einar Grenn and an orchestral work for the RPO.

KRYSTOF PENDERECKI. Sinfonietta No.2 for clarinet and strings (première)—13 July/Budapest/Wolfgang/Karlhoffer, Paul Meyer (cl), Sinfonia Varsovia c. composer. Penderecki is composing his Second Violin Concerto, for Anne-Sophie Mutter.

LYNNE PLOWMAN. Blue (première)—6 October/Cardiff Festival/Cardiff PO c. Michael Bell.

DAVID POWER. Five Songs (première)—21 May/York, Soundpool Festival/Composers Ensemble.

ANTHONY POWERS. The Swing of the Sea (première)—4 July/Cheltenham Festival/Composers Ensemble c. Daniel Harding.

ARIBERT REIMANN. Eingedenkelt (UK première)—20 July/London, Wigmore Hall/Brigitte Fassbaender (mezzo). Reimann is composing a Violin Concerto for Gidon Kremer.

CHRISTOPHER ROUSE. Flute Concerto (première)—28 October/Detroit/Carol Wincenc, Detroit SO c. Hans Vonk.

PETE SCULTHORPE. From Uhr for string quartet and didjeridu (première)—19 July/London, Barbican/Kronos Quartet. Lament for cello and strings (UK première)—22 August/City of London Sinfonia c. Richard Hickox. Little Suite (première)—23 August/Brodky Quartet. Simori (première)—24 August/Ivan Munro (pno). Chorale (première)—27 August/Lontano c. Odaline de la Martinez. All these premières at the Vale of Glamorgan Festival.


PAUL STANLEY. Begin Again (première)—7 May/York, Soundpool Festival/Raymond Clarke (pno).

KARLHEINZ STOCKHAUSEN. Heliociter String Quartet (première)—28 July/ Salzburg Festival/Ardmi String Quartet.

GILES SWAYNE. Squeezy (première)—9 July/Leamington Spa/David Preston (accordion).

TORU TAKEMITSU. Spirit Garden (première)—14 July/Tokyo/Tokyo Metropolitan SO c. Hiroshi Wakasugi.
HILARY TANN. Water’s Edge (premiere)—30 August/ Presteigne Festival/Festival String Orchestra c. George Vass. The Croesor Stone for solo violin (premiere)—2 September/ Presteigne Festival/Kryostof Smietana. With the heather and the small bird (premiere)—17 September/Cardiff Festival/ European Women’s Orchestra c. Odaline de la Martinez.

JOHN TAVENER. Amen (premiere)—20 July/Chichester Cathedral/Cathedral Choir c. Alan Thurlow.

SIR MICHAEL TIPPETT. King Priam (US première)—1 July/San Francisco/ SF Opera Center c. Donald Runnicles.

CARL VINE. String Quartet No.3 (premiere)—22 May/ Brighton Festival/Smith Quartet.

JUDITH WEIR. Heroic Strokes of the Bow (premiere)—3 July/Cheltenham Festival/BBC Symphony Orchestra c. Andrew Davis.

JOHN WHITE. Scenes of Violence (premiere)—23 June/ London, BMIC/Nancy Ruffer (fl), John White (pno).

PAUL WHITTY. Verto (premiere)—26 May/York, Soundpool Festival/jane Chapman (hpschd).

HUGH WOOD. The Kingdom of God (premiere)—3 July/ City of London Festival/St. Paul’s Cathedral Choir c. John Scott.

JOHN WOOLRICH. Piano book V (premiere)—30 November. The North Wind (premiere)—5 November; both at Oxford Contemporary Music Festival/Composers Ensemble.


Books received

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

Henry J. Wool, Maker of the Proms by Arthur Jacobs. Methuen, £20.00.


Skostakovitch: A Life Remembered by Elizabeth Wilson. Faber & Faber, £25.00.

Verlorene Werke Viktor Ullmanns im Speigel zeitgenössischer Presseberichte by Ingo Schultz. Von Bockel Verlag (Verdrängte Musik – Band 4), 29.80DM.


The Sorabji Archive

Alistair Hinton reviews:

The legacy of Kaikhosru Shapurji Sorabji (1892–1988) – composer, pianist and critic – is vast. Working mostly in England, he published two books of essays and many hundreds of articles, letters and reviews. Brilliantly witty, eminently readable, provocative, pensive and trenchant by turns – their manner ornate, elaborate and coruscating – Sorabji’s writings are, at their best, worthy of his inter-Wars peers whose principal profession was literature. But it is, of course, his enormous prolific output as a composer for which he is better known. Sorabji completed more than one hundred works between 1915 and 1982. Many are for piano solo. Some are of enormous dimensions. A handful of Sorabji scores, published between 1919 and 1931, came under the exclusive selling agency of Oxford University Press in 1938. The last of these sold out just a few days before Sorabji’s death in 1988. No reprints were proposed. The vast majority of his music remains, for the time being, in manuscript only.

Sorabji’s immense corpus of work remained mostly inaccessible to the public for many years. An ironical, though inevitable, consequence of the newly burgeoning Sorabji performing traditions has been that, as his oeuvre became more accessible to the ear, so it became less so to the eye. Once public performances of Sorabji began to attract much more widespread attention to his work in the 1970s, Oxford University Press’s sales of published scores rose rapidly; items ran out-of-print from 1977 onwards. I discussed the developing problem with Sorabji at length over a period of time. A direct consequence was the foundation of The Sorabji Music Archive as a research centre which would make the composer’s entire output available. This idea met with Sorabji’s wholehearted approval. The Archive’s activities – developing its collection, and encouraging research and creation of performing editions – have expanded steadily ever since.

Established in 1988 and renamed in 1993, The Sorabji Archive caretakes a substantial number of the composer’s original manuscripts. It houses a collection of literature by and about Sorabji including articles and essays, reviews and previews of book and music publications, performances and recordings, personal correspondence, letters-to-the-editor, performance/broadcast history, discography and many other items. The Archive issues copies of these remarkable scores and writings to the public worldwide, and welcomes visits by appointment from performers and scholars. Several distinguished musicians have prepared definitive editions (manuscript and computer-generated) of Sorabji’s works, and more are in progress. Editors include Marc-André Roberge, Chris Rice, Marc-André Hamelin, Donna Amato, Charles Hopkins and Gordon Runston. The exquisite calligraphy of Kevin Bowyer’s edition of Sorabji’s Organ Symphony No.2, a staggering 396 A3 landscape pages, has to be seen to be disbelieved.

The Sorabji Archive has prepared several information booklets and leaflets which it issues free of charge. These comprise the following items:

Music and Literature by KAIKHOSRU SHAPURJI SORABJI

—a general catalogue detailing all music scores, books and literature by Sorabji, including prices, which it supplies to the public

New Editions of Music and Literature by KAIKHOSRU SHAPURJI SORABJI

—a shorter catalogue extracted from the above, detailing manuscript and computer–printed new definitive editions and corrected publications of music scores