IRCAM

The Second part of IRCAM's contemporary music festival entitled Passage du XXe siecle will be followed in 1978 by a series of concerts featuring the Ensemble InterContemporain.

Two British works had their French premières during October: Harrison Birtwistle's Meridian at the Théâtre de la Ville on 18 October (Sarah Walker with the Ensemble InterContemporain conducted by Michael Tabachniik) and Peter Maxwell Davies's Worldes Blis at the Théâtre des Champs-Elysées on 26 October (the Paris Orchestra conducted by Pierre Boulez).

Boulez conducted the BBC Symphony Orchestra in the world première of David Lumsdaine's Hagoromo at the Salle Pleyel on 1 December. *Hagoromo* is the last of five works described by the composer as 'different reflections on the idea of grace as it emerges in the Noh play Hagoromo by Seami (15th century)' The central feature of this play is the dance of an angel. Lumsdaine sees the three large arch-like sections of his own work as 'a single landscape through which the dance passes time and again, always exploring new paths which transforms the elements of the landscape'.

A new work by Michael Finnissy entitled Lost Lands will be given its French première at the Théâtre de la Ville on 19 January. The Ensemble InterContemporain will be conducted by Pierre Boulez. Lost Lands (first performed in Graz—see p.47 for details) is scored for Eb Clarinet, Soprano Saxophone, Violin, Guitar and Piano. The Saxophone is the protagonist and survives emulation by the other instruments to bring the work to a close with a frenetic solo.

Composers

DOMINICK ARGENTO is writing an opera entitled Miss Havisham for the New York City Opera, to be premieried in October 1978. The title-role will be sung by Beverley Sills.


RICHARD RODNEY BENNETT. Kandinsky Variations for 2 pianos (première)—1 December 1977 / Wigmore Hall / Richard Rodney Bennett, Susan Bradshaw.

ALAN BUSH. 74 Preludes for Piano, Op.84 (première) and Song Cycle to Poems by Pablo Neruda, op.86 (first complete performance)—30 October 1977 / Wigmore Hall / Graham Titus (baritone), Alan Bush (piano).

SEBASTIAN FORBES. Sonata for 9 (première)—6 December 1977 / Wigmore Hall / Lontano Ensemble, c. John Carewe.

WOLFGANG FORTNER. String Quartet No.4 (première)—14 October 1977 / Saarbrücken—Saar Radio / Melos Quartet.


EDWARD HARPER. Seven Poems by e. e. cummings (première)—1 November 1977 / City Hall, Glasgow / Jane Manning, BBC Scottish SO c. Albert Rosen. Fantasia III for brass quintet (première)—3 November 1977 / St. Cecilia Hall, Edinburgh University / Albany Brass Quintet.

JONATHAN HARVEY. Correspondances for mezzo-soprano and piano (première)—12 December 1977 / Purcell Room / Meriel and Peter Dickinson.

MICHAEL HEAD. Three Songs of Venice (première)—14 October 1977 / Royal Festival Hall / Janet Baker, André Previn.


MAURICIO KAGEL. Variétés (première)—18 October 1977 / Metz / c. Diego Masson.

Lutoslawski will be one of the Visiting Composers at the Dublin Festival of 20th-Century Music (6-13 January 1978).

ELIZABETH MACONCHY. *String Quartet No.11* (premiere)—13 December 1977 / Goldsmith’s Hall / Lindsay String Quartet.

PETER MAXWELL DAVIES. *Symphony* (premiere)—2 February 1978 / Royal Festival Hall / Philharmonia c. Simon Rattle.

Maxwell Davies will be one of the Visiting Composers at the Dublin Festival of 20th-Century Music (see LUTOSLAWSKI).


Panufnik will be one of the Visiting Composers at the Dublin Festival of 20th-Century Music (see LUTOSLAWSKI). He has recently completed the score for a radio adaptation of The Third Adam by Jerzy Pieterkiewicz, and is working on a Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani for the International Organ Festival in Manchester.

KAIKHOSRUI SORAJJ. *Gulistan* (1949) and *St. Bertrand de Comminges ‘He was laughing in the Tower’* (1941) (premières) —22 November 1977 / Wigmore Hall / Yonty Solomon.

JOHN TAVENER. *Kyklike Kinesis* for solo cello, soprano, chorus, ensemble and tape (première) —8 March 1978 / Queen Elizabeth Hall / London Sinfonietta (10th Anniversary Commission).


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