TEMPO

NEWS SECTION

IRCAM

The Second part of IRCAM’s contemporary music festival entitled Passage du XXe siècle 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 Tabachnik) and Peter Maxwell Davies’s Worlds Bliss 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 premiere of David Lumsdale’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. Lumsdale 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 premiered 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. 7.4 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.

MICHAIL HEAD. Three Songs of Venice (première)—24 October 1977 / Royal Festival Hall / Janet Baker, André Previn.


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