Letter to the Editor

From Paul Rapoport

In his review of my edition of Vagn Holmboe’s essays (Tempo 181), Stephen Johnson assumed that I had mistranslated Holmboe’s quotation of Théophile Gautier. But Holmboe presents Gautier’s statement amidst several negative views of music. Gautier may have said: ‘La musique est le plus cher, mais le plus désagréable des bruits’. So indeed, he thought music unpleasant, not pleasant. Oddly, these words may not have originated with Gautier, but Holmboe’s point is unaffected.

As for the missing line at the top of page 58, Holmboe was saying that encounters with the unconscious may produce artistic results which come to light only much later. The line is indeed missing. (I will refrain from naming the proofreader.)

In my review of Bendt Viinholt Nielsen’s book on Rued Langgaard, I should have mentioned that the English introduction contains a twelve-page translation of important Danish expressions into English: even more reason why monolingual anglophones need not hesitate to obtain this fine bibliographic study.

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News Section

Composers

JOHN ADAMS is composing a Violin Concerto.

KALEVI AHO has been appointed composer-in-residence with the Latvian Symphony Orchestra for two years, and is writing an organ symphony for them.


JACK BEESON. Lizzie Borden (German première)—3 October/Hagen, Stadische Theater/c. Gerhard Markson.

JOHN CAGE died on 13 August. FIVE1 for trombone and string quartet (première)—28 June/Middleburg/James Fulkerson (tb), Mondriaan String Quartet. TWO* for violin and Sho (première)—23 July/Darmstadt Ferienkurse/Irvine Arditti, Mayumi Miyata.

ELLIOTT CARTER. Variolage for harp (US première)—27 March/Cleveland, Ohio/Ursula Holliger. Sono in vento (UK première)—12 June/Aldeburgh Festival/Sebastian Bell (fl). Trilogy (first complete performance)—30 June/Pontino Festival/Heinz & Ursula Holliger; (US première)—1 October/New York, Merkin Hall/Speculum Musicae. Inner Song (UK première)—15 September/London, Queen Elizabeth Hall/Heinz Holliger (ob).

FRIEDRICH CERHA. Quellen (première)—22 November/Vienna, Wien Modern Festival/die reihe c. composer.

DAVID DIAMOND. Symphony No.11 (première)—3 December/New York/NYPO c. Kurt Masur.

JAMES DILLON. String Trio (première)—17 July/Darmstadt Ferienkurse/Ensemble Recherche. Dillon is writing a work for solo viola.

BRIAN FERNEYHOUGH. Bone Alphabet for percussion (European première)—19 July/Darmstadt Ferienkurse/Steven Schick.


BERTHOLD GOLDSCHMIDT has completed a Fourth String Quartet for the Mandelring Quartet.

HENRYK MIKOLAJ GORECKI. Leichenmusik (NY première)—12 May/New York, Bang on a Can Festival/Charles Nedich (cl), Maya Beiser (vc), Alan Feinberg (pno). String Quartet No.2, Quasi una Fantasia (London première)—28 September/London, Royal Festival Hall/Kronos Quartet.

HK GRUBER. Frankenstein!! (Israeli première)—29 July/Kol Israel Upper Galilee/Nitza Saul, c. Doron Solomon.
ROY HARRIS (d.1979). Violin Concerto (German première)—30 June/Hagen/Nora Chestain (vln), Hagen PO c. Gerhard Markson.


VAGN HOLMOE has completed his Second Viola Concerto and is now writing duets for 2 violins.

DAVID HORNE. North Slope (première)—26 September/Thurso High School/members of Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Horne is also composing a work for tenor and piano to be premiered in the same venue the following day.


BENJAMIN LEES. Odyssey No.2 (première)—27 May/New York, Merkin Hall/Miriam Conti (pno).

JEFFREY LEWIS was featured composer at this year’s Vale of Glamorgan Festival, together with Arvo Pärt and John Taverner. Premières there included his Lax Perpetua, specially commissioned by the Hilliard Ensemble.

INGVAR LIDHOLM. A Dream Play (première)—12 September/Stockholm/Royal Swedish Opera.

JONATHAN LLOYD. Ballad for the Evening of a Man (première)—2 July/London, Purcell Room/Judith Hall and friends.

JAMES MACMILLAN. Piano Sonata (French première)—10 October/Strasbourg/Joanna MacGregor. Macmillan has completed a chamber work for the Composers Ensemble.


ARNE NORDHEIM. Te Voi (UK première)—19 July/Almeida Theatre/BIT20 Ensemble.


NIGEL OSBORNE. Terrible Mouth (première)—10 July/Almeida Opera/c. David Parry.

ANTHONY POWERS. The Memory Room (première)—10 July/Lichfield Festival/William Howard (pno).


ROBERT SAXTON. At the Round Earth’s Imagined Corners (première)—5 July/London, St.Paul’s Cathedral/Cathedral Choir c. John Scott. Saxton is composing a cello concerto for Mitslavl Rostropovich and a Trumpet Concerto for John Wallace.


DIMITRI SMIRNOV. Six Choruses (première)—21 July/Cambridge Festival/St.John’s College Choir c. Christopher Robinson.

KAREN TANAKA. Primes (UK première)—17 June/Liverpool/RLO c. Christopher Gayford.

ANDREW TOOVEY. Ul/u (London première)—5 October/Queens Elizabeth Hall/Music Theatre Wales c. Michael Rafferty.

KEVIN VOLANS is composing an opera on the last year of Rimbault’s life for the ENO.

JUDITH WEIR. Heroische Bogenstriche (première)—October/Nordrhein-Westfalen/West German Sinfonia c. Dirk Joeres. Weir is working on a new opera commissioned by ENO for the 1993-4 season and orchestral pieces for the CBSO and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

HUGH WOOD. Funeral Music (première)—24 August/St. Mark’s Church, Kingholm, Glos./London Gabrieli Brass Consort.

FRANK ZAPPA. The Yellow Shark (première)—17 September/Frankfurt/Ensemble Modern.

Books received

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

Copland Since 1943 by Aaron Copland and Vivian Perlis. Marion Boyars, £29.95.


Lost and Only Sometimes Found – a seminar on music publishing and archives edited by Lewis Foreman. British Music Society.


Gustav Mahler: Adagietto – Facsimile, Documentation, Recording edited by Gilbert E. Kaplan. Faber & Faber, £65.00 (edition limited to 1500 copies; includes CD).

The Correspondence of Roger Sessions edited by Andrea Olmstead. Northeastern University Press, $60.00.