

NEWS SECTION

Composers

MALCOLM ARNOLD has completed his Eighth Symphony, and also a Symphony for Brass for the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble.

GEORGE BENJAMIN, *Altitude* for brass band (première)—21 April / Leeds Town Hall / Grimethorpe Colliery Band c. Elgar Howarth.

HARRISON BIRTWISTLE . . . *agm* . . . for 16 voices and 3 instrumental groups (U.K. première)—10 September / Royal Albert Hall (Promenade Concert) / John Alldis Choir, Ensemble InterContemporain c. Peter Eötvös.

DAVID BLAKE. *Cassation* (première)—26 May / Wigmore Hall / Whispering Wind Band.

HAND-JURGEN von BOSE. *Solo for Cello* (première)—29 May / Wittenberg / Klaus Heitz.

ATTILA BOZAY has accepted a commission from Radio France to write his Third String Quartet.

JOHN CAGE. *Hymns with Variations* (première)—10 June / Bonn New Music Days / Cologne Radio Chorus c. Herbert Schernus. Part of a week-long John Cage Festival which also included the European premières of *Lecture on the Weather*, *Renga with Apartment House 1776*, *16 Dances* (1951) and *Empty Words*.

GEORGE CRUMB. *Star-Child* (U.K. première)—27 July / Royal Albert Hall (Promenade Concert) / Dorothy Dorow, BBC Singers, BBC Symphony Orchestra c. Elgar Howarth (with assistant conductors Malcolm Hicks, Lionel Friend and Howard Snell).

PAUL DESSAU. The noted German composer died on 28 June at the age of 85.

JACOB DRUCKMAN. *Aureole* (première)—9 June/Avery Fisher Hall/New York Philharmonic c. Leonard Bernstein.

LASZLO DUBROVAY is writing a Flute Concerto for the Hungarian flautist István Matuz.

ZSOLT DURKO has recently completed three new works: *Refrain* for violin and 22 instruments; *Musica chiaroscuro* for orchestra; and a large-scale *Rhapsody* for orchestra in four movements.

HK GRUBER. *Demilitarized Zones*, March-paraphrase for brass band (première)—17 May / Zagreb Festival / Grimethorpe Colliery Band c. Elgar Howarth. Violin Concerto ' . . . *aus schatten duft gewebt*' (première)—29 September / Berlin Festival / Ernst Kovacic with *die reihe* c. composer. The same concert (part of a 'weekend' at the Berlin Festival devoted to the work of Gruber and KURT SCHWERTSIK), will include the première of a new ensemble version of *Frankenstein!!*, conducted by Schwertsik, with Gruber as baritone soloist.

JONATHAN HARVEY. String Quartet (London première)—18 April / Purcell Room / Arditti Quartet. *Hymn* for chorus and orchestra (première)—12 July / Winchester Cathedral. Harvey has recently completed an electronic piece, *Veils and Memories*, as well as an *Album* for Wind Quintet for the Athena Ensemble. He is now working on a Passion Play for Canterbury Cathedral, for performance in 1980.

HANS WERNER HENZE. *Aria de la Follia Espanola*, version for large orchestra (première)—23 April / Bournemouth / Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra c. composer. Henze is now working on *The King of Harlem* for mezzo-soprano and ensemble for the 1980 Florence Maggio Musicale.

ROBIN HOLLOWAY. *Killing Time* for unaccompanied soprano (première)—2 March / Lynchburg, Virginia / Phyllis Bryn-Julson. *Divertimento No. 3 (Nursery Rhymes)* (première)—5 May / BBC Radio 3 / Phyllis Bryn-Julson with Athena Ensemble. *La figlia che piange* (première)—9 June / Aldeburgh Festival / Peter Pears, Osian Ellis. Second Concerto for Orchestra (première)—22 September / Glasgow, Musica Nova / Scottish National Orchestra c. Alexander Gibson.

OLIVER KNUSSEN. *Coursing* (première)—14 April / Queen Elizabeth Hall / London Sinfonietta c. composer. Symphony No. 3 (première of complete work)—6 September / Royal Albert Hall (Promenade Concert) / BBC Symphony Orchestra c. Michael Tilson Thomas. Knussen is currently completing *Where the wild things are*, an opera for the Monnaie Theatre, Brussels to a libretto by Maurice Sendak.

BARBARA KO' B. *Homage to Keith Jarrett and Gary Burton* / 3 *Place Settings* (U.K. premieres)—7 July / St. Bartholemew's Festival / Lontano Ensemble.

GYORGY KURTAG is writing a set of Russian Songs for soprano and chamber ensemble. He has been commissioned to write a new work for the Ensemble InterContemporain, for performance in 1980.

GYORGY LIGETI. *Passacaglia Hungarese* for harpsichord (première)—5 February / Lund (Sweden) / Eva Nordwall.

WITOLD LUTOSLAWSKI. *Les espaces du sommeil* (U.K. première) — 6 August / Royal Albert Hall (Promenade Concert) / John Shirley-Quirk, BBC Symphony Orchestra c. composer.

ELIZABETH MACONCHY. *Colloquy* for flute and piano (première)—2 June / Wigmore Hall / Ingrid Culliford, Shelagh Sutherland.

COLIN MATTHEWS. *Un colloque sentimental* (European première)—17 June / Wigmore Hall / Hartley Newham. Matthews is now working on a string quartet for the 1980 Aldeburgh Festival.

NICHOLAS MAW. *La Vita Nuova* (première)—3 September / Round House (Promenade Concert) / Phyllis Bryn-Julson, Nash Ensemble

PETER MAXWELL DAVIES. *Solstice of Light* (première)—18 June / Kirkwall, St. Magnus Festival / St. Magnus Cathedral Singers. *Shopping Songs* (première)—16 June / Kirkwall Primary School. *The Two Fiddlers* (U.S. première)—21 April / New York / Manhattan School of Music.

ANDRZEJ PANUFNIK. *Concerto Festivo* (première)—17 June / Royal Festival Hall / London Symphony Orchestra.

ANTHONY PAYNE. *The Stones and Lonely Places Sing* (première)—2 September / Round House (Promenade Concert) / Phyllis Bryn-Julson with Nash Ensemble.

KRZYSZTOF PENDERECKI. *Vorspiel, Visionen und Finale aus 'Paradise Lost'* (première)—10 August / Salzburg Festival / Austrian Radio SO c. Leif Segerstam. *Te Deum* for soli, Chorus and orchestra (première)—30 September / Assisi / performers c. composer. Penderecki is working on his Second Symphony: the première, by the New York Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta, is scheduled for 22 April 1980.

HENRI POUSSEUR. *Songs and tales from the bible of death* (première)—6 May / Roundhouse / Electric Phoenix.

ARIBERT REIMANN. *Invenzioni* for 12 players (première)—16 June / Queen Elizabeth Hall / London Sinfonietta c. Elgar Howarth. Reimann is working on a *Lear-Sinfonie*, extracted from his Shakespeare opera, for performance in Zurich in May 1980, and a string quartet entitled *Unrevealed*, for the 1980 Berlin Festival.

TONA SCHERCHEN-HSIAO has recently completed *L8* for trombone and 12 strings, and is working on a Brass Quintet commissioned by French Radio. She has also accepted a French Government commission to compose a work for the harpsichordist Elizabeth Chojnacka and the Ars Nova Ensemble; a commission from West German Radio for a new work to be created at the Cologne Electronic Studios; and a commission from Saarbrücken Radio for the second cycle of *Oeil de Chat*. The première of the complete first cycle is scheduled for the ISCM Festival in Athens in September.

DIETER SCHNEBEL. *Thanatos-Eros*, two symphonic improvisations for orchestra (première)—31 May 1979 / Berlin Radio SO c. Lawrence Foster.

CHARLES SEEGER. The great American musicologist and sometime composer died on 7 February at the age of 92.

KAIKHOSRU SHAPURJI SORABJI. *Rosario d'Arabeschi* (première)—6 June / Wigmore Hall / Yonty Solomon.

ANDRAS SZOLLOSZY is working on a string quartet.

RAIMUND WEISSENSTEINER. Seven recently completed works have been premiered in Vienna (November 1978 and April this year), including *Five Aphorisms* for piano, a song cycle on poems by Viktor Buchgraber, and a concerto for 2 pianos and 6 timpani. (Weissensteiner will be 75 in August; 1980 his 34 opus numbers include 12 symphonies and 10 oratorios).

DOUGLAS YOUNG. *Fireworks* (première)—2 May / Westminster Cathedral / Leicestershire Schools Symphony Orchestra c. composer.