
Letters to the Editor

From Finbar O' Súilleabháin

Jörg Stenzl's article on York Höller's new opera *The Master and Margarita* (Tempo 179) is in one area – that of Höller's relationship to his sometime mentor Stockhausen – rather misleading by omission.

Anyone familiar with Stockhausen's later work will be aware that since 1970 – the year before Höller began studies with him, as Prof. Stenzl points out – he has consistently used the term 'formula' (*Formel*) to describe the figurative blueprints on which most works of the intervening period have been exhaustively based. Prof. Stenzl's repeated use of the same designation in connection with Höller's methods might seem reasonable enough given the evident similarities he reveals but omits to mention – the most blatant of which is the identification of *The Master's* three chief characters with their own 'formulas', as in the continuing LICHT cycle on which Stockhausen embarked in 1977. Moreover, Stockhausen himself would seem to look on Höller's path as the sincerest form of flattery, to judge by his acceptance of the dedication of the latter's *Schwarze Halbinseln* (see Vol.6, p.315 of Stockhausen's *Texte*), which as Prof. Stenzl makes clear was the first work based on *The Master's* 'formula'.

Apart from its failure to acknowledge this obvious ancestry – of which he could hardly fail to be aware – there is a potentially more damaging reason why Prof. Stenzl's article cannot be allowed to pass without comment in your pages. It happens that, having appropriated it to refer to a very particular innovation of his own composing, Stockhausen has specifically asked that the word *Formel* (and the term *Formelkomposition*) be reserved, in musical contexts, to his own work. Since Prof. Stenzl quotes York Höller as himself using *Klanggestalt* in referring to his own (after all, perfectly distinct) conception, there seems no reason why this reasonable wish should not be respected.

It is precisely such muddying of the historical waters that have led Stockhausen to be too easily judged as having had little influence, when it would be more accurate to say he has consistently received insufficient acknowledgement.

Isel Hall
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Nr. Cockermouth
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(Similar letters on this subject were also received from Anders Beyer of *Dansk Musik Tidsskrift*, Copenhagen; Ralf Sengstock, Freiburg; and Michael Mannion, Oakland CA. To all of whom we extend our thanks and regrets that lack of space precluded the printing of their comments — Ed.)

News Section

Composers

JOHN ADAMS. *El Dorado* (European première)—11 September/Huddersfield/Halle Orchestra c. Kent Nagano.

RICHARD BARRETT. *negatives* (première)—10 May/Melbourne, Australia/Elision Ensemble c. Sandro Gorli.

RICHARD RODNEY BENNETT. *Concerto for Stan Getz* (première)—1 August/London, Royal Albert Hall Prom/John Harle (sax), BBC Concert Orchestra c. Barry Wordworth.

JUDITH BINGHAM. *The Stars above, the Earth below* (première)—7 May/Manchester, RNCM/RNCM Brass Band c. Howard Snell.

PHILIPPE BOESMANS is composing an opera, *Reigen*, after Arthur Schnitzler's *La Ronde*, for performance at the Théâtre de la Monnaie, Brussels in 1993.

JOHN BULLER. *Bakxai* (première)—5 May/London, Coliseum/English National Opera c. Martin André.

DAVID BULLOCK. *Oedipus Tyrannus*, opera after Shelley (première)—26 March/Esch Municipal Theatre, Luxembourg/Pirate Productions dir. and prod. James Reid-Baxter, c. composer.

JOHN CAGE. *Five⁴ – in memory of Stefan Wolpe* (première)—25 April/Witten, Tage für neue Kammermusik/Heinz Holliger (ob).

- ELLIOTT CARTER *Inner Song* for solo oboe (première)—25 April/Witten, Tage für neue Kammermusik/Heinz Holliger (ob). Quintet for piano and wind instruments (première)—13 September/Cologne/Kölnmusik Ensemble with Heinz Holliger (ob) and Andras Schiff (pno); (UK première)—15 September/London, Queen Elizabeth Hall/same artists.
- JOHN CASKEN. *Still Mine* (première)—31 July/London, Royal Albert Hall Prom/Thomas Allen (bar), BBC SO c. Matthias Bamert.
- AARON COPLAND (d.1990). *Grohg* (première)—20 June/Aldeburgh Festival/London Sinfonietta c. Oliver Knussen.
- JAMES DILLON. *ignis noster* (première)—20 July/London, Royal Albert Hall Prom/BBC SO c. Alexander Lazarev.
- JACOB DRUCKMAN. *Dance with Shadows* (Finnish premièr)—9 July/Viitasaari Festival/Brassanova.
- BRIAN ELIAS. *The Judas Tree* (première)—19 March/London, Royal Opera House/Royal Ballet, choreography by Sir Kenneth Macmillan, c. Barry Wordsworth. Elias is composing a set of Shakespeare Sonnets for baritone and string quartet for the Takacs Quartet, and a Piano Concerto for Peter Donohoe.
- MICHAEL FINNISSY. *Anima Christi* for alto, tenor, chorus and organ (première)—17 April/Brighton, St. Peter's Church/Sussex Philharmonic Chorus c. Jonathan Cross.
- ELENA FIRSOVA. *Augury* (première)—4 August/London, Royal Albert Hall Prom/BBC Chorus and SO c. Andrew Davis.
- AIDAN FISHER. *Two Pieces for Skye* (première)—15 April/London, Hoop Lane Unitarian Church/Skye Atman (pno).
- ROBERTO GERHARD. (d.1970) *Don Quixote* (concert première of complete ballet of 1950)—19 July/London, Royal Albert Hall Prom/CBSO c. Simon Rattle.
- ALEXANDER GOEHR. *The Death of Moses* (première)—2 August/London, Royal Albert Hall Prom/Monteverdi Choir, English Baroque Soloists c. John Eliot Gardiner.
- BERTHOLD GOLDSCHMIDT. String Trio, *Retrospectum* (première)—23 January/Berlin/Hans Mailer (vln), Thomas Turner (vla), Peter Mann (vlc). String Quartet No.3 (UK première)—28 June/Aldeburgh Festival/Mandelring Quartet.
- HENRYK MIKOLAJ GORECKI. String Quartet No.2, *Quasi una Fantasia* (Dutch première)—25 March/Amsterdam, De Ijsbreker/Kronos Quartet (who gave the Norwegian première in Kristiansand on 28 March). Piano Sonata No.1 (UK première)—8 April/Downpatrick/Paul Crossley. *Good Night* (Dutch première)—7 May/Amsterdam, Concertgebouw/Stella Kleindienst (sop), members of the Schoenberg Ensemble. *Miserere* (UK première)—9 July/Norwich Cathedral/Western Wind Choir c. Paul Hillier.
- PHILIP GRANGE. *Focus and Fade* (première)—11 May/London, Royal Festival Hall/BBC Symphony Orchestra c. Andrew Davis.
- HK GRUBER is composing a music-theatre piece, *Gloria von Jaxtberg*, for performance in Munich in 1993.
- DAVID HEATH. Flute Concerto, *Free the Spirit* (première)—13 June/Birmingham/James Galway (fl), Philharmonica c. Leonard Slatkin.
- PIERS HELLAWELL. *Quadruple Elegy (in time of freedom)* (première)—16 April/London, Queen Elizabeth Hall/Madeleine Mitchell (vln), City of London Chamber Orchestra c. Christopher Zimmermann.
- VAGN HOLMBOE. *Eco* for clarinet, cello and piano (première)—5 April/Denmark, Solyst/Niels Thomsen (cl), Vanja Louro (cello), Tove Lonskov (pno).
- SIMON HOLT. *walking with the river's roar* for viola and orchestra (première)—21 July/London, Royal Albert Hall Prom/Nobuko Imai (vla), BBC Philharmonic c. Yan Pascal Tortelier.
- KETIL HVOSLEF. Violin Concerto (UK première)—15 June/London, Barbican/Trond Saeverud (vln), RPO c. Per Dreier.
- OLIVER KNUSSEN. *Songs without Voices* (première)—26 April/Washington DC, Lincoln Centre/Chamber Music Society of the Lincoln Centre c. composer.
- BARBARA KOLB. *Monticello Trio* (première)—12 April/University of Virginia, Charlottesville/Monticello Trio.
- GYÖRGY KURTÁG. *Lebenslauf* (première)—26 April/Witten, Tage für neue Kammermusik.
- BENJAMIN LEES. Horn Concerto (Spanish première)—28 May/Madrid; (German première)—2 June/Bonn; (UK première)—5 June/Birmingham/all William Caballero (hn), Pittsburgh SO c. Lorin Maazel.
- NICOLA LEFANU is completing an opera based on Lorca's *Blood Wedding*.
- MAGNUS LINDBERG. Duo Concertante (première)—15 April/Germany, Wittener Tage für neue Musik/Nieuw Ensemble.
- MALCOLM LIPKIN. Variations on a Theme of Bartók (première)—5 May/Delme Quartet/Newbury Spring Festival.
- JONATHAN LLOYD. *Then* (première)—20 June/Exeter/Hand-Dupre Duo.
- JAMES MACMILLAN. *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, Concerto for percussion and orchestra (première)—10 August/London, Royal Albert Hall Prom/Evelyn Glennie, Scottish Chamber orchestra c. Sir Charles Mackerras.
- NICHOLAS MAW. *Roman Canticle* (US première)—23 March/Washington DC/Aureole. *Shahnama* (première)—7 May/London, Queen Elizabeth Hall/London Sinfonietta c. Anthony Pay.
- COLIN MATTHEWS. *Broken Symmetry* (première)—5 March/London, Barbican/BBC SO c. Oliver Knussen. *Machines and Dreams* (US première)—28 March/Cleveland/Cleveland Orchestra c. Ling. Colin Matthews is composing a new work for solo cello for the Cambridge Festival.
- DAVID MATTHEWS. *Spell of Sleep* (première)—13 May/Dartington/Composers Ensemble. *The Sleeping Lord* (première)—29 May/Prague Spring Festival/Nash Ensemble

(UK première at Cheltenham Festival, 31 May, same artists).

DOMINIC MULDOWNNEY. Violin Concerto (première)—17 March/Liverpool/Tamsin Little (vln), RLPO c. Libor Pesek & composer.

MICHAEL NYMAN. Piano Trio (première)—14 July/Cheltenham Festival/Trio of London. Nyman is composing a harpsichord piece and a work for London Brass.

SIR ANDRZEJ PANUFNIK (d.1991). Cello Concerto (première); Symphony No.10 (UK première)—24 June/London, Barbican/Mstislav Rostropovich (vlc), LSO c. Hugh Wolff.

ANTHONY PAYNE. *A Hidden Music* (première)—16 June/London, Westminster Cathedral/London Festival Orchestra.

NED ROEM. String Quartet No.3 (NY première)—4 March/Alice Tull Hall/Guarneri Quartet.

POUL RUDERS. *The Second Nightshade* (première)—21 June/Orkney, St. Magnus Festival/Scottish Chamber Orchestra c. Ivor Bolton. Violin Concerto No.2 (UK première)—13 July/Cheltenham Festival/Rebecca Hirsch (vln), Bournemouth SO c. Kees Bakels.

KAIJA SAARIAHO is composing a work for cello and electronics and a chamber opera for the forthcoming 'Tender is the North' Festival of Nordic Arts in London.

ROBERT SAXTON. *Caritas* (London première)—1 July/Queen Elizabeth Hall/Opera North.

DAVID SAWYER. *Byman Wood* (première)—18 August/London, Royal Albert Hall Prom/BBC SO c. Mark Wiglesworth.

ALFRED SCHNITTKE. *Life with an Idiot* (première)—13 April/Amsterdam, Het Muziektheater/dir. Boris Pokrovsky, c. Mstislav Rostropovich.

KURT SCHWERTSIK. Concerto for Timpani and orchestra (Czech première)—21 May/Prague/Vienna SO c. Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos. (Première of revised version)—24 May/Vienna/Vienna SO c. Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos. *Ulrichslegende* (première)—14 July/Ossiach/Austrian Chamber SO, Vienna Boys Choir, Modern Art Quartet c. Peter Kuschmign.

ROBERT SIMPSON was featured composer at the 1992 Malvern Festival, Worcestershire, with four major premières as follows: Cello Concerto—17 May/Rafael Wallfisch (vlc), BBC Welsh SO c. Vernon Handley; String Quartet No.15—22 May/Vanburgh Quartet; Symphony No.11—23 May/City of London Sinfonia c. Matthew Taylor; Flute Concerto—24 May/Susan Milan (fl), City of London Sinfonia c. Richard Hickox.

DMITRI SMIRNOV. *Abel* (première)—24 June/Orkney Festival/Chameleon.

RONALD STEVENSON. String Quartet *Voces Vagabundae* (London première)—25 April/Purcell Room/Edinburgh Quartet.

HUBERT STUPPNER. String Quartet No.3 (première)—28 April/Vienna/Nomos Quartet.

KAROL SZYMANOWSKI (d.1937). *King Roger* (US première)—3 April/University at Buffalo, NY/The Greater Buffalo Opera Company c. Richard Weitach.

JOHN TAVENER. *The Child Lived* (première)—7 June/London, Purcell Room/Composer's Ensemble. *Mary of Egypt* (première)—19 June/Aldeburgh Festival/dir. Lucy Bailey, c. Lionel Friend, cast including Patricia Rozario and Stephen Varcoe. *The Last Sleep of the Virgin* for string quartet and handbells (première)—15 July/Cheltenham Festival/Chilingirian Quartet. *We shall See Him As He Is* (première)—18 July/Chester Festival/Festival Chorus, Britten Singers, BBC Welsh SO and Chorus c. Richard Hickox (London première 23 July, Royal Albert Hall Promenade Concert, same artists). *Village Wedding* (première)—28 August/Vale of Glamorgan Festival/Hilliard Ensemble.

ANDREW TOOVEY. *Ubu* (première)—24 September/Cardiff Festival/Music Theatre Wales c. Michael Rafferty.

MICHAEL TORKE. *Chalk* (première)—3 March/London, Bernard Jacobson Gallery/Balanescu Quartet. *Music on the Floor* (première)—10 April/Milwaukee Art Museum/Present Music. Torke is writing a Double Concerto for 2 cellos and orchestra for the National Symphony Orchestra, Washington.

JOAN TOWER. Violin Concerto (première)—24 April/Utah/Elmar Oliveira (vln), Utah Symphony c. Joel Silverstein.

MARK ANTHONY TURNAGE. *Are You Sure?* (première)—25 March/London, BBC, Broadcasting House/Brindisi String Quartet. *Leaving* (première)—9 May/Birmingham/Helen Walker (sop), Andrew King (ten), CBSO and Chorus c. Simon Halsey.

GALINA USTVOLSKAYA. Symphony No.1 (first Western performance)—19 June/Hamburg. Piano Sonata No.5, Clarinet Trio (UK premières)—23 June/Aldeburgh Festival/Herman de Boer (cl), Vera Beths (vln), Reinbert de Leeuw (pno).

JUDITH WEIR. *The Vanishing Bridegroom* (US première)—2 June/St. Louis, Missouri/Opera Theatre of St. Louis. *I broke off a golden branch* (première)—5 July/Cheltenham Festival/Schubert Ensemble.

HERBERT WILLI. Concerto for Orchestra (European première)—24 July/London, Royal Albert Hall Prom/Cleveland orchestra c. Christoph von Dohnanyi

HUGH WOOD. String Quartet No.4 (première)—15 July/Cheltenham Festival/Chilingirian Quartet. Wood is composing a work for the London Gabrieli Brass Ensemble for performance at the Three Choirs Festival in Gloucester.

STEFAN WOLPE (d.1972). *Music for any Instruments* (première)—25 April/Witten, Tage für neue Kammermusik.

Books Received

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

A Lester Young Reader edited by Lewis Porter. Smithsonian Institute Press, £34.95 (hardback), £15.50 (paperback).

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