

Sargent, on 2 April 1958, which – when it is ever referred to nowadays – seems to be condemned as having been a poor performance under a conductor who evidently did not understand the work.

However, the BBC possesses a recording of the broadcast of this première, which has been re-broadcast in the past 18 months. This re-hearing of a performance which has come to be dismissed suggests that, at very least, the first three movements in this première were exceptionally well interpreted by Sargent: only in the last movement, surely taken too quickly, would one agree with those who condemned him. I was present at this première, and have retained my original impression that in this work RVW was moving into a new creative phase which he sadly

did not live to pursue in successive works – although it would be fascinating to hear the Cello Concerto, which was completed by him in draft.

My original impressions of this Symphony have been borne out over the years, and it was refreshing to be reminded of the first time I heard it, under Sargent – whose talk on the Symphony in the BBC's *Music Magazine* the preceding Sunday, i.e. before the work was heard, spoke of it as being 'great music'. Perhaps it was the work's first reviewers, rather than the conductor, who failed to grasp the Symphony's originality and importance.

1 Exford Road
London
SE12 9HD

News Section

Composers

JOHN ADAMS. *Century Rolls* (European première)—18 April/Amsterdam, Concertgebouw/Emanuel Ax (pno), Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra c. composer.

THOMAS ADÉS. ...*But All Shall Be Well* (German première)—17 January/Berlin-Dahlem/Radio SO Berlin c. Stefan Asbury. *Concerto Conciso* (German première)—16 February/Frankfurt/Ensemble Modern c. composer; (US première)—26 April/New York/NYPO c. composer. *Catch* (US première)—16 February/New York/NY Music Ensemble c. Chris Fincki.

JULIAN ANDERSON. *The Crazy Moon* (German première)—17 January/Berlin-Dahlem/Radio SO Berlin c. Stefan Asbury.

SIMON BAINBRIDGE. *3 Pieces for Orchestra* (première)—7 February/Bristol/Brunel Ensemble c. Christophe Austin.

GERALD BARRY. *Hard D* (US première)—8 April/John Hopkins University/Peabody Wind Ensemble.

GEORGE BENJAMIN. *Viola, viola* (Italian première)—4 April/Milan. *Sometime Voices* (French première)—28 April/Paris, Théâtre des Champs Elysées/Hallé Orchestra and Chorus c. Kent Nagano.

HARRISON BIRTWISTLE. *Harrison's Clocks* (première—19 April/Manchester, Bridgewater Hall, ISCM World Music Days/Joanna McGregor (pno).

GEOFFREY BURGON. *Fantasia on R.E.X.* (première—14 February/Santa Barbara, California/Santa Barbara SO.

DIANA BURRELL. *Christo Paremus Cantica* (première)—2 May/London, Holy Trinity, Sloane Street/Allegri Singers c. Michael Nicholas. *Bronze* (première)—20 June/Bristol/Brunel Ensemble c. Christopher Austin. Burrell is composing a song-cycle on Danish texts for soprano, cor anglais and orchestra and a work for the New Zealand String Quartet.

ELLIOTT CARTER. *Symphonia* (première of complete trilogy)—25 April/Manchester. ISCM New Music Days/BBC Symphony Orchestra c. Oliver Knussen. *Luimen* (première—31 March/Amsterdam, Paradiso/Nieuw Ensemble c. Ed Spanjaard. Carter, who celebrates his 90th birthday this year, is writing a Piano Quintet for Ursula Oppens and the Arditti Quartet, and has begun a one-act comic opera, *What Next?*, to a libretto by Paul Griffiths, for Daniel Barenboim and the Komische Oper, Berlin.

RICHARD CAUSTON. *A Shaft of Sunlight Reaches Mansion House Station* (première)—26 February/London, Imperial College/Sinfonia 21 c. Martyn Brabbins.

JAMES DILLON. *Book of Elements* (UK première)—1 June/London, Queen Elizabeth Hall/Roger Woodward.

FRANCO DONATONI. *Holly* (première)—11 February/Manson Ensemble c. Simone Fontanelli. *In Cauda III* (UK première)—13 February/Royal Academy of Music SO c. Simon Romanos. Both in London, at RAM.

GOTTFRIED VON EINEM (d.1996). *Luzifers Lächeln* (première)—4 February/Vienna Kammeroper/prod. Koppinger, orchestra c. Peter Keuschning.

EDWARD ELGAR (d.1934)/ANTHONY PAYNE. *Symphony No.3* (public première)—15 February/London, Royal Festival Hall/BBC Symphony Orchestra c. Andrew Davis.

BRIAN FERNEYHOUGH. *Flurries* for six players (première)—10 February/San Diego/Sor Ensemble dir. Steve Schick. *Unsichtbare Farben* for solo violin (première)—Irvine Arditti (vln).

MICHAEL FINNISSY. *Recent Britain (A New Yahoosalem)* (première)—25 January/London, BBC Broadcasting House/Apartment House. *Alkan-Paganini: An Imaginary Portrait* (première)—9 May/Oxford Contemporary Music Festival/Nicholas Hodges (pno).

- BEAT FURRER. *a due* for viola and piano (première)—17 January/Rotterdam/Michael and Loretta Gieler. *Presto* for flute and piano (première)—1 March/Berlin/Eva Furrer (fl), Mareno Formenti (pno). Piano Quintet (première)—21 June/Lucerne Festival/Ingrid Karlen (pno), Schönberg Ensemble.
- DETLEV GLANERT. *Katafalk* (première)—16 March/Mannheim/Mannheim National Theater Orchestra c. Jan Markl.
- MARTYN HARRY. *Fantasy Unbuttoned* (première)—21 February/London, Queen Elizabeth Hall/London Sinfonietta c. Markus Stenz.
- JONATHAN HARVEY. *Wheel of Emptiness* (première)—22 January/Brussels/Ictus Ensemble c. Georges-Elie Octors. *Death of Light, Light of Death* (première)—10 April/Colmar/Ensemble InterContemporain.
- HANS WERNER HENZE. *Erikönig* (UK première)—11 February/London, Royal Festival Hall/Truls Mork (vlc), BBC Symphony Orchestra c. Manfred Honeck.
- OLIVER KNUSSSEN. Horn Concerto (German première)—20 April/Berlin/Stefan Dohr (hn), Berlin PO c. Roger Norrington.
- BARBARA KOLB. *Virgin Mother Creatrix* (première)—19 March/Indiana University of Pennsylvania/IUP Chorale.
- BENJAMIN LEES. *Silent Voices* (première)—31 May/Washington DC, Holocaust Museum/Honigberg Trio.
- STEPHEN MACKKEY. *Ravenshead* (première)—10 April/Princeton University, NJ/Rinde Eckert (ten), Paul Drescher Ensemble.
- JAMES MACMILLAN. *Busqeda* (US première)—20 February/Buffalo, NY/Opera Sacra c. Jack Ledworth. *Cantos Sagrados* (première of orchestral version)—21 March/Glasgow Cathedral/Patricia MacMahon (sop), Royal Scottish National Orchestra c. Christopher Bell. String Quartet, *Why is this night different?* (première)—23 April/London, Wigmore Hall/Maggini Quartet.
- COLIN MATTHEWS. *Dowlandia* (première)—18 April/London, Queen Elizabeth Hall/Birmingham Contemporary Music Group c. Nicholas Kok.
- DAVID MATTHEWS. *Burnham Wick* (première)—10 March/Birmingham/Britten Sinfonia c. Nicholas Cleobury.
- NICHOLAS MAW. Sonata for solo violin (première)—18 January/Minneapolis, Minnesota Public Radio/Jorja Fleezanis.
- SIR PETER MAXWELL DAVIES. *A Reel for Seven Fishermen* (première)—7 May/San Francisco/San Francisco SO c. composer.
- DOMINIC MULDOWNEY. *The Brontës Suite* (première)—9 March/London, St John's Smith Square/Orchestra of St John's Smith Square c. John Lubbock.
- TRISTAN MURAIL. *L'esprit des dunes* (UK première)—20 March/London, BBC Maida Vale Studios/London Sinfonietta c. James Wood.
- THEA MUSGRAVE. *Phoenix Rising* (première)—18 February/London, Royal Festival Hall/BBC Symphony Orchestra c. Andrew Davis.
- HELMUT OEHRING. *4Real* (première)—21 March/Berlin/Joachim Daliz (organ).
- MATTHIAS PINTSCHER. *Figura* (première)—24 April/Witten, New Music Days/Teodore Anzelotti (accordion), Arditti Quartet. *a twilight's song* (première)—28 April/Munich Biennale/Eva-Maria Kuhrau (sop), soloists of the Bavarian State Orchestra c. composer.
- PAUL READE (d.1997). Bassoon Concerto (première)—11 February/London, St John's Smith Square/Laurence Perkins (bsn), English Chamber Orchestra c. Peter Broadbent.
- STEVE REICH. *Hindenburg* (première of complete work)—26 May/Spoleto, USA/Steve Reich & Musicians.
- PETER SCULTHORPE. String Quartet No.12 (première)—5 March/Launceston, Tasmania/Goldner Quartet. Cello Concerto (première)—29 April/Manchester, International Cello Festival/Steven Isserlis (vlc), BBC Philharmonic c. Yan Pascal Tortelier. Sculthorpe is writing a new work for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.
- HOWARD SKEMPTON. *Double Take* (première)—22 January/London, Tate Gallery/Andrew Sparling (cl), Thalia Myers (pno).
- ULRICH STRANZ. String Quartet No.4 (première)—22 April/Cologne/Keller Quartet.
- WILLIAM SWEENEY. *An Turus (The Journey)*, chamber opera in Gaelic (première)—2 February/Inverness/dir. Gerda Stevenson; Yvonne Barclay, Lynn McMurtry, Alan Oke, Robin Greenway, Paragon Ensemble c. David Davies.
- MICHAEL TORKE has been appointed Associate Composer by the Royal Scottish National Orcherstra.
- DAVID DEL TREDICI. *The Spider and the Fly* (première)—28 May/New York, Avery Fisher Hall/Heidi Murphy (sop), NYPO c. Kurt Masur.
- ERKKI-SVEN TÛÜR. Requiem (UK première)—18 May/Oxford, Holywell Music Room/Hertford College Music Society.
- UNSUK CHIN. Three Studies (UK première)—26 February/London, Imperial College/Sinfonia 21 c. Martyn Brabbins.
- GRAHAM WILLIAMS. 3 Fantasies for wind quintet (première)—22 February/London, Jackson's Lane Theatre/Marais Ensemble.
- JOHN WOOLRICH. Oboe Quintet (première)—20 June/Leicester International Music Festival/Nicholas Daniel (ob), Festival Ensemble.
- MICHAEL ZEV GORDON. *Barcarola* (première)—8 February/London, Jackson's Lane Theatre/English Horn Trio.

Books Received

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

Twenty Israeli Composers: Voices of Culture by Robert Fleisher. Wayne State University Press, £35.50.

Collins Guide to Opera and Operetta by Michael White and Elaine Henderson. HarperCollins, £14.99.