

Tempo

A QUARTERLY REVIEW OF MODERN MUSIC

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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 51-36700

COLIN MASON

By the time this issue reaches the press, our readers will no doubt have learned of the sudden and unexpected death, at the age of 47, of our editor, Colin Mason. As a music critic successively on *The Manchester Guardian*, *The Guardian* and *The Daily Telegraph*, he earned a high reputation for the sincerity of his comments, often laced with asperity and acid wit, but also with warmth and generosity when these were earned. His lively interest in British music was clearly evident during the two periods when he was chairman of the Macnaghten Concerts, from 1962 to 1965, and again in 1968 and 1969, and in his editorship of and contributions to the *Oxford Studies of Composers* and *Cobbett's Cyclopedic Survey of Chamber Music*. He was also keenly interested in Hungarian music, especially that of Bartók, of Kodály and of the present generation of Hungarian composers, and it is a great loss to us that he was unable to complete his book on Bartók. It is not therefore surprising that we have received many expressions of sympathy from Budapest, as well as from other parts of Europe.

This edition of *Tempo* was only partly prepared before his death, and we beg readers' indulgence if it falls short in any respect of the high standards which we have come to expect of anything which Colin Mason undertook.

We take this opportunity of expressing our deep sympathy with his widow and his son, Nicholas, and of saluting a musical personality of the highest integrity, a quality frequently referred to in the many warm tributes that appeared in the press after his death.