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## Letter to the Editor

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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

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### Composers

JOHN ADAMS is composing a Violin Concerto.

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

DOMINICK ARGENTO. *Te Deum* (UK première)—22 August/Worcester, Three Choirs Festival/BBC Philharmonic c. Donald Hunt.

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

JOHN CAGE died on 13 August. *FIVE*<sup>3</sup> for trombone and string quartet (première)—28 June/Middleburg/James Fulkerson (tbn), Mondriaan String Quartet. *TWO*<sup>4</sup> for violin and Sho (première)—23 July/Darmstadt Ferienkurse/Irvine Arditti, Mayumi Miyata.

ELLIOTT CARTER. *Bariolage* for harp (US première)—27 March/Cleveland, Ohio/Ursula Holliger. *Scrivo 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/Wienna, 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.

MICHAEL FINNISSY. *Various Nations* (première)—9 July/London, Almeida Theatre/Eleanor Bron (narrator), Music Projects-London c. Richard Bernas. Finnissey is writing an opera based on Zola's novel *Térese Raquin*.

ROBERTO GERHARD (d.1970). *The Duenna* (UK stage première)—17 September/Leeds/Opera North c. Antoni Rós-Marbá.

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

HENRYK MIKOLAJ GORECKI. *Lerchenmusik* (NY première)—12 May/New York, Bang on a Can Festival/Charles Nedich (cl), Maya Beiser (vlc), 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.

ALUN HODDINOTT. Symphony for Brass and Percussion (première)—20 September/Cardiff Festival/National Youth Brass Band of Wales c. Edward Gregson.

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

DAVID HORNE. *North Scope* (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.

DAVID JOHNSON. *Dawn Call* (première)—14 May/Durham Cathedral/John Wallace (tpt), Northern Sinfonia c. Simon Wright. *Guess who I met last night?* for school ensembles and orchestra (première)—2 June/Edinburgh, Greyfriars Kirk/recorder and string groups from Lothian Region schools, Dalkeith SO c. Malcolm Porteus. *Dunfermline Suite* (première)—4 August/Paisley Abbey/The Wallace Collection. Trumpet Sonata (première)—1 December/Edinburgh/John Wallace (tpt), Simon Wright (pno).

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 Tavener. Premieres there included his *Lux 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.

WILLIAM MATHIAS died on 29 July. *In Arcadia* (première)—25 March/Aberystwyth/BBC Welsh SO c. Tadaki Otaka. Flute Concerto (première)—17 June/Criccieth Festival/William Bennett, Guildhall String Ensemble. *Come Holy Ghost* (première)—14 June/Toledo, Ohio/Choir of Trinity Episcopal Church. Just before his death Mathias had begun composing a Fourth Symphony commissioned by the Santa Fe Orchestra.

ARNE NORDHEIM. *Tre Voci* (UK première)—19 July/Almeida Theatre/BIT20 Ensemble.

STEPHEN OLIVER (d.1992). *Mario and the Magician* (UK première)—2 July/Almeida Opera/ċ. Nicholas Kok.

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).

KAIJA SAARIAHO. *Lichtbogen* (UK première)—19 July/Almeida Theatre/BIT20 ensemble. . . . *de la Terre* for violin (première)—23 July/Darmstadt Ferienkurse/Irvine Arditti.

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 Mstislav Rostropovich and a Trumpet Concerto for John Wallace.

KURT SCHWERTSIK. *Shal-i-mar* (première of revised version)—24 October/Vienna, Wien Modern Festival/London Sinfonietta c. Elgar Howarth. *Baumgesänge* (première)—16 November/Vienna, Wein Modern Festival/ORF Symphony Orchestra c. Michael Boder. *Irische Klänge* (first performance of the complete cycle)—19 November/Vienna, Wien Modern Festival/Vienna SO c. Horia Andreescu.

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

KAREN TANAKA. *Prismes* (UK première)—17 June/Liverpool/RLPO c. Christopher Gayford.

ANDREW TOOVEY. *Ubu* (London première)—5 October/Queen Elizabeth Hall/Music Theatre Wales c. Michael Rafferty.

KEVIN VOLANS is composing an opera on the last year of Rimbaud'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.

*Charles Ives: "My Father's Song". A psychoanalytic biography* by Stuart Feder. Yale University Press, £19.91.

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

*Schubert and the Symphony: A New Perspective* by Brian Newbould. Toccata Press, £25.00.

*Percy Grainger* by Wilfrid Mellers. Oxford Studies of Composers, £25.00.

*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.