

NEWS SECTION

IRCAM

The Second part of IRCAM's contemporary music festival entitled **Passage du XX^e siècle** will be followed in 1978 by a series of concerts featuring the Ensemble InterContemporain.

Two British works had their French premières during October: Harrison Birtwistle's *Meridian* at the Théâtre de la Ville on 18 October (Sarah Walker with the Ensemble InterContemporain conducted by Michael Tabachnik) and Peter Maxwell Davies's *Worldes Bliss* at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées on 26 October (the Paris Orchestra conducted by Pierre Boulez).

Boulez conducted the BBC Symphony Orchestra in the world première of David Lumsdaine's *Hagoromo* at the Salle Pleyel on 1 December. *Hagoromo* is the last of five works described by the composer as 'different reflections on the idea of grace as it emerges in the Noh play *Hagoromo* by Seami (15th century)' The central feature of this play is the dance of an angel. Lumsdaine sees the three large arch-like sections of his own work as 'a single landscape through which the dance passes time and again, always exploring new paths which transforms the elements of the landscape'.

A new work by Michael Finnissy entitled *Lost Lands* will be given its French première at the Théâtre de la Ville on 19 January. The Ensemble InterContemporain will be conducted by Pierre Boulez. *Lost Lands* (first performed in Graz—see p.47 for details) is scored for E♭ Clarinet, Soprano Saxophone, Violin, Guitar and Piano. The Saxophone is the protagonist and survives emulation by the other instruments to bring the work to a close with a frenetic solo.

Composers

DOMINICK ARGENTO is writing an opera entitled *Miss Havensham* for the New York City Opera, to be premièred in October 1978. The title-role will be sung by Beverly Sills.

MALCOLM ARNOLD. *Variations on a theme of Ruth Gipps* (première)—22 February 1978 / Queen Elizabeth Hall / Chanticleer Orchestra c. Ruth Gipps.

SIMON BAINBRIDGE Viola Concerto (première)—12 March 1978 / Free Trade Hall, Manchester / Walter Trampler, London Sinfonietta c. Michael Tilson Thomas.

RICHARD RODNEY BENNETT. *Kandinsky Variations* for 2 pianos (première)—1 December 1977 / Wigmore Hall / Richard Rodney Bennett, Susan Bradshaw.

ALAN BUSH. 24 Preludes for Piano, Op.84 (première) and Song Cycle to Poems by Pablo Neruda, op.86 (first complete performance)—30 October 1977 / Wigmore Hall / Graham Titus (baritone), Alan Bush (piano).

SEBASTIAN FORBES. *Sonata for 9* (première)—6 December 1977 / Wigmore Hall / Lontano Ensemble, c. John Carewe.

WOLFGANG FORTNER. String Quartet No.4 (première)—14 October 1977 / Saarbrücken—Saar Radio / Melos Quartet.

ALBERTO GINASTERA. *Glosses sobre temas de Pau Casals* (U.S. première)—24 January 1978 / Washington / National Symphony Orchestra c. Mstislav Rostropovich.

EDWARD HARPER. *Seven Poems by e. e. cummings* (première)—1 November 1977 / City Hall, Glasgow / Jane Manning, BBC Scottish SO c. Albert Rosen. *Fantasia III* for brass quintet (première)—3 November 1977 / St. Cecilia Hall, Edinburgh University / Albany Brass Quintet.

JONATHAN HARVEY. *Correspondances* for mezzo-soprano and piano (première)—12 December 1977 / Purcell Room / Meriel and Peter Dickinson.

MICHAEL HEAD. *Three Songs of Venice* (première)—24 October 1977 / Royal Festival Hall / Janet Baker, André Previn.

HEINZ HOLLIGER. *Die Jahreszeiten* (première)—21 October 1977 / Donaueschingen / Schola Cantorum Stuttgart, Clytus Gottwald. *Kommen und gehen* (première)—17 February 1978 / Hamburg State Opera Company c. Heinz Holliger.

MAURICIO KAGEL. *Variété* (première)—18 October 1977 / Metz / c. Diego Masson