Holloway 60th in London, Manchester & Cambridge

Over 20 works by Robin Holloway are performed this autumn in major celebrations for his 60th birthday, including premieres by the Nash Ensemble and Endellion String Quartet, and an all-Holloway orchestral concert by the BBC Philharmonic. In addition to concerts in London, the Royal Northern College of Music presents a Holloway Resonances weekend and the composer is featured at the Cambridge Music Festival.

The Nash Ensemble gives the world premiere of Holloway’s Spring Music for flute, harp and string quartet on 4 October at the Wigmore Hall in London. The new work is the third in a series of four chamber works, each for a different selection of six instruments, that evoke the seasons and the character of four of Holloway’s composer friends - the new work being dedicated to Howard Skempton. The 60th birthday concert also features Holloway’s Fantasy-Pieces on Schumann’s Liederkreis conducted by Lionel Friend. The work has been recorded by the Nash Ensemble on Hyperion (CDA 67036) and, as on disc, the Wigmore Hall performance of Fantasy-Pieces will incorporate Schumann’s song-cycle, here sung by tenor John Mark Ainsley with pianist Ian Brown.

The Endellion String Quartet gives the world premiere of Holloway’s new String Quartet in Manchester on 13 October, as an upbeat to the Holloway Resonances weekend at the RNCM. A further performance takes place on 18 November within the Cambridge Music Festival’s feature entitled Robin Holloway and the Romantics. The fruits of a long flirtation with this most challenging of mediums, the new String Quartet falls into three movements: the opening allegro is a forward-moving succession of contrasted material; the slow movement consists of a march rising through the range of the instruments, surrounding a muted trio; the finale is a compressed recap of the opening movement’s material, ending in a whirlwind prestissimo.

Manchester plays host to a three-day celebration of Holloway’s music on 16-18 October (full schedule overleaf) directed by Clark Rundell, combining the forces of the BBC Philharmonic and students from the Royal Northern College of Music. A highlight promises to be the all-Holloway concert by the BBC Philharmonic at the RNCM on 17 October, with Martyn Brabbins conducting three of the composer’s most admired works. Scenes from Schumann (1970) was a breakthrough work for Holloway in which he reclaimed “all that was forbidden by the Zeitgeist”, embracing German Romanticism and recasting it in his own language. The Second Concerto for Orchestra (1979) was hailed as “one of the most important achievements of its time” (The Times) and “a simply astonishing piece of sustained compositional virtuosity” (Financial Times). The Violin Concerto (1990) demonstrates Holloway’s lyrical skills to the full, and the performance by Ernst Kovacic in Manchester is tied in with the NMC reissue of his recording (DO97).

For full details of Holloway 60th events, please see over. For further information on Holloway’s music please visit our website at www.boosey.com/holloway, or contact:

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Robin Holloway
60th birthday 19 October 2003

CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

4 October
60th birthday concert
Wigmore Hall, London
Fantasy-Pieces / Spring Music (world premiere)
Ian Brown/Nash Ensemble/Lionel Friend

9 October
Music of Today feature
Royal Festival Hall, London
Aria / Showpiece (Concertino No.4)
Members of Philharmonia Orchestra / Martyn Brabbins
(also in Leicester on 22 October)

13 and 16-18 October
Holloway Resonances in Manchester
Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester

13 October, 7.30 pm
String Quartet (world premiere)
Endellion String Quartet

16 October, 1.00 pm
Wherever We May Be
Flora McIntosh, sop

16 October, 7.30 pm
Entrance: Carousing: Embarkation / Men Marching / From Hills and Valleys
RNCM Wind Orchestra and Brass Band / James Gourlay / Clark Rundell
6.30 pm pre-concert talk: Robin Holloway and Adam Gorb

17 October, 1.00 pm
Serenade in Bb
RNCM Wind Ensemble / Laura Jellicoe

17 October, 7.30 pm
Scenes from Schumann / Violin Concerto / Second Concerto for Orchestra

11-20 November
Robin Holloway and the Romantics
Cambridge Music Festival

11 November, 1.10 pm
Ballade / Nocturne
Tau Wey

14 November, 8.00 pm
First Idyll / Romanza for oboe and string orchestra
Nicholas Daniel / Britten Sinfonia / Paul Watkins
7.00 pm pre-concert talk by Robin Holloway

18 November, 8.00 pm
String Quartet
Endellion String Quartet

19 November, 8.00 pm
Missa Caensis / Woefully Arrayed
Choir of King’s College Cambridge / Stephen Cleobury

20 November, 8.00 pm
The Noon’s Repose / Spring Music
Mark Padmore/Nash Ensemble

Looking Ahead

11/12/13 March, San Francisco
En blanc et noir (Debussy, arr. Holloway) (world premiere)
San Francisco Symphony / Michael Tilson Thomas
also 14 March in Kansas City, 18 March in Cleveland,
and 23 March at Carnegie Hall, New York

The San Francisco Symphony has commissioned Holloway
to compose a Fourth Concerto for Orchestra for premiere in
the 2004/05 season

NEW RECORDINGS

Violin Concerto / Horn Concerto
Ernst Kovacic, vln / BBC Philharmonic / Martyn Brabbins
17 October, 10.00 pm
Souvenirs de Monsalvat
Kathryn Eves & Ruth Hollick, piano duo

18 October, 7.30 pm
Evening with Angels / Five Haydn Miniatures
RNCM New Ensemble / Clark Rundell

NEW BOOK

On Music: Essays and Diversions
by Robin Holloway
Hardback, 480 pp £30.00 (UK price)

This remarkable collection of essays brings sustained,
meditative and illuminating accounts of both the
masterpieces of the Romantic era and the classical
tradition from which they derive.