



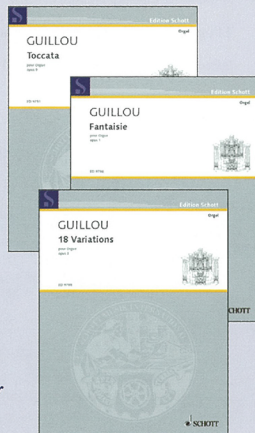
Jean Guillou

The complete works, now available in new editions by Schott & Co. Ltd.

- Hailed as one of the outstanding musicians of our day
- Works range from solo organ pieces to symphonies, and concerti for piano and organ to chamber music

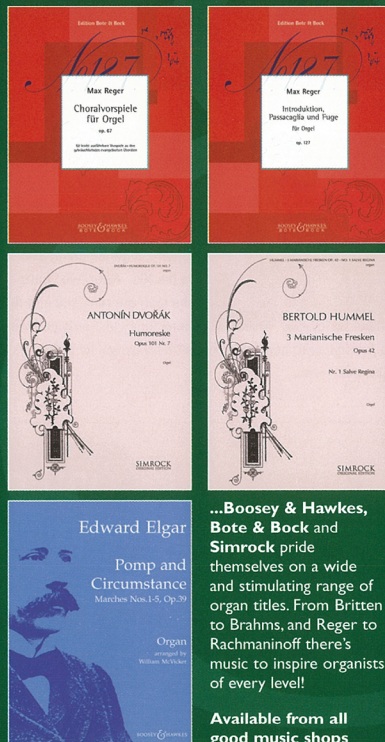
"His art is both seductive and awe-inspiring. It transcends tradition without ever being unfaithful to it" Le Figaro

Available from all good music shops or at www.schott-music.com



For further information contact marketing@schott-music.com or call 020 7437 1246

Britten, Copland, Reger, Elgar...



...Boosey & Hawkes, Bote & Bock and Simrock pride themselves on a wide and stimulating range of organ titles. From Britten to Brahms, and Reger to Rachmaninoff there's music to inspire organists of every level!

Available from all good music shops



For further information contact marketing@schott-music.com or call 020 7437 1246

Wednesday 20th July

VERTAVO STRING QUARTET

Øynor Volle, violin
Berit Cardas, violin
Henninge Landaas, viola
Björg Vaernes, cello

8pm St Peter's Church



String Quartet No.2 in F major Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Sostenuto – Allegro vivace; Allegro scherzando
Grieg was not a prolific composer of chamber music; his sum total was three violin sonatas, a cello sonata and two string quartets. This second quartet remained unfinished, a source of pain to the composer until his death. The two extant movements were written during a winter spent in Copenhagen, but the Danish city's bright lights were no artistic substitute for his beloved Norwegian countryside.

"There is nothing inspiring or stimulating. No. Give me peaceful nature instead! It speaks more and better than these prattling, petty people...The music I settle on one day I tear out of my heart the next, for it is not genuine. My ideas are bloodless, just as I am, and I am losing confidence in myself". So he wrote in a letter in January 1891, but in March of that year he was delighted to have written these two movements. Already he felt guilty at not having completed the work but was confident that he would compose the two remaining movements on his return to Oslo.

However, in a letter of 1895 he wrote "That accursed string quartet which constantly lies there like an old Norwegian cheese". Again in 1903 "... I wasn't motivated to proceed with this cheerful work". In 1906, "If only I could at least finish the string quartet for you". It never was finished, although Grieg did leave notes of his plan for the other two movements.

Grieg's two movements were only heard for the first time in the year following his death. And an unusual premiere it was too.

The composer's Dutch friend Julius Röntgen played the viola, the pianist Harold Bauer the first violin, Pablo Casals the second violin (held between his knees like a cello) and Casals' wife played the cello in a private performance whose sole audience was Mrs Röntgen. They must have thoroughly enjoyed playing this sparkling and delightful quartet.

String Quartet No.8, 'Night Descending' Per Nørgård (b.1932)

Prologue – Eulogy; Man – Animal; Voyage; Night Descending; Epilogue – Elegy

Per Nørgård writes: "String Quartet No.8" is based on five sections from my chamber opera 'Nuits des Hommes' from 1996, in which a string quartet (and percussion) constitutes the instrumental ensemble. Even though the subject of the opera is the Great War, the plot is on a psychological level and traces the development of a human couple, whose initial war enthusiasm is succeeded by horror, and in the end dehumanity. War poems by Guillaume Apollinaire serve as libretto.

"The five movements of the string quartet illustrate phases in this process: the 1st movement (Prologue - Eulogy) is an ecstatic praise of the 'Sun of Gold'; the 2nd movement (Man - Animal) is rhythmically tense and increasingly militaristic; the 3rd movement (Voyage) illustrates the intensified consciousness of the exciting new era, abruptly broken off by the 4th movement (Night Descending) in which the evening calm of darkness is not blessed, but loaded with anxiety before the battle. In the concluding 5th movement material from the prologue reappears, but the eulogy is transformed into an Epilogue - Elegy."

Per Nørgård is one of the most original artists in the cultural life of Denmark. His work as composer, teacher and theorist for almost half a century has had an enormous significance on the development of contemporary Danish art music. Nørgård has written works in all categories, for amateurs as well as professionals, from large-scale operas to modest hymns, and from simple movements to imposing edifices.

Interval