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Modern Bassoon

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Funeral March of a Marionette, arranged by Glenn Caluda (Merion, £14), is delightfully transcribed and eminently suitable for a good student ensemble. The skeletal rattle of the marionette will delight audiences; established quartets could use this as a lively encore. Also exemplary in presentation is John W. Duarte's *English Suite no.4 op.82*, for flute or recorder and guitar (Chester, n.p.), a well-integrated work in which the composer's innate lyrical gift is allowed its natural and native flow in his fourth celebration of an essential Englishness. The format here is a joy to behold, just as it should be.

GRAHAM WADE

Modern bassoon

A clutch of new publications for bassoon will help the hard-pressed player supplementing the repertoire. The three-movement Sonata for unaccompanied bassoon by Edison Denisov (Leduc/United, £5.10) is a substantial, imposing piece (15 minutes) that explores successively long arched phrases, winding chromatic lines, and fast, detached scurrying or florid phrases. The full range of the instrument is used, notably in the cruelly testing high notes of the second movement which demands enormous flexibility of lip and

fingers. Six Virtuoso Inventions for bassoon by Zdeněk Šesták (Panton/Universal, £1.25) would make a suitable companion-piece, again making use of the full use of the bassoon's range, and putting into each piece some strong characterization.

Much more straightforward are *Two Little Suites* (op.55 of 1974 and op.68 of 1981) for three bassoons and double bassoon by Viktor Bruns (Breitkopf/Fentone, score £7.20, parts £12.60). The lively neo-classical style of the 11 movements provides plenty of interesting and entertaining music for all four players.

NIALL O'LOUGHLIN

Competitions

Lloyds Bank National Composers' Award: work of six to ten minutes' duration for solo piano; open award of £1000, youth prize of £250; entries by 30 June. Details from Lloyds Bank National Composers' Award, St Michael's Vestry, Cornhill, London EC3V 9DU.

Ettlingen International Competition for Young Pianists, 9–14 Aug: two classes – under 16 and under 21; prizes totalling 11,400 DM; entries by 30 June. Details from the Competition Office, Musikschule der Stadt Ettlingen, Pforzheimer Strasse 25a, D-7505 Ettlingen, West Germany.

2nd International Nicanor Zabaleta Competition, San Sebastian, Oct: for violinists, violists, cellists and double-bass players; age limit 35; prizes totalling 2000 pesetas; entries by 30 June. Details from Caja de Guipúzcoa, Calle Garibay N 20, 20004 San Sebastian, Spain.

10th Alberto Curci International Violin Competition, Naples, 15–25 Nov: age limit 30; prizes totalling 12,000 lire; entries by 30 June. Details from the Competition Secretariat, Fondazione Alberto Curci, via Nardones 8, 80132 Naples, Italy.

6th International Madam Butterfly Singing Competition, Torre del Lago, 25 Aug–15 Sept: age limit 20–32 for women, 23–35 for men; prizes totalling \$28,000; entries by 15 July. Details from the Secretariat, via Belvedere Puccini 4, 55048 Torre del Lago Puccini, Lucca, Italy.

1st Contemporary Piano Competition, Cambridge, 9–12 Nov: for British pianists; age limit 18–32; prizes totalling £1000; entries by 1 Oct. Details from Philip Mead, CCAT School of Music, East Road, Cambridge CB1 1PT.

2nd International Voice Competition of Bilbao, 3–10 Dec: age limit 18–33; prizes totalling 3,250,000 pesetas; entries by 1 Oct. Details from the Departamento de Cultura de la Diputación Foral de Vizcaya, Gran Via 26–4, 48009 Bilbao, Spain.

8th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Fort Worth, 27 May–11 June 1989: age limit 18–30; prizes totalling \$49,000; entries by 1 Nov. Details from the Van Cliburn Foundation Inc., 2525 Ridgmar Boulevard, Suite 307, Fort Worth, Texas 76116, USA.

6th Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition, Tel-Aviv, 2–16 April 1989: age limit 18–32; prizes totalling \$21,000; entries by 1 Nov. Details from the Competition Secretariat, Shalom Tower, POB 29404, Tel-Aviv 61293, Israel.

International Horn Society Composition Contest: three categories – short piece (not more than four minutes) for horn and piano, trio for horn, trumpet and trombone, sextet for six horns; prizes totalling \$3000; entries by 10 Nov. Details from Daniel Lienhard, Schwarztorstrasse 51, CH-3007 Berne, Switzerland.

Rolex Music Performance Awards, Singapore, 26 March–8 April: for pianists and violinists; age limit 18–30; prizes totalling \$15,000; entries by 1 Dec. Details from Rolex Singapore Private Ltd, 302 Orchard Road 01-01, Tong Building, Singapore 0923.

13th Clara Haskil Competition, Vevey, 23 Aug–2 Sept 1989: for pianists; age limit 32; first prize of 12,000 Fr; entries by 5 July 1989. Details from the Secretariat, 35 rue du Village, CH-1802 Corsaux/Vevey, Switzerland.

Courses, Conferences

Fontevraud Meetings for Singers, June–July: courses in Gregorian chant (30 June–10 July) with Louis Le Feuvre and Clément Morin, on Machaut (10–18 July) with Dominique Vellard and Karin Smith-Paulsmeier, and French song and opera (14–25 July) with Jane Rhodes and Randall Blatt. Details from the Centre Culturel de l'Ouest, 49590 Fontevraud-L'Abbaye, France.

International Master Classes and Festival, Porto Carras, Chalkidiki, 2–12 Sept: for string, woodwind and horn players, accordionists, pianists and musicologists, with Lukas David, Elsbeth Moser, Hans-Dietrich Klaus, Ab Koster, Richard Syracuse, Karin Werner-Jensen. Details from Thomas Wiese, Gesellschaft für Internationale Sommerkurse, Am Kirchensteig 9, D-2251 Schöbull, West Germany.

Music in the 19th Century, Oxford, 8–11 July: joint meeting of the Sonneck Society and the British Biennial Conference on Romantic Music; speakers to include Nicholas Temperley, John Graziano, Steven Ledbetter, Andrew Lamb, Ruth M. Wilson, Stephen Banfield, Rudolf Elvers, Jan Smaczny, Julian Rushton and Robert Orledge. Details from Stephen Banfield, University of Keele, Keele, Staffordshire ST5 5BG.

Gilbert and Sullivan and their Circles, Leicester, 15–17 July: conference with David Russell Hulme, Geoffrey Bush, Colin Prestige, Arthur Jacobs, Jane W. Stedman and Richard Foulkes. Details from Mrs W. Brown, Department of Adult Education, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH.

National Early Music Association Conference, Guildhall School of Music, 21–3 July: on early keyboard music and instruments. Details from NEMA, 8 Covent Garden, Cambridge CB1 2HR.

16th Annual Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Music, Edinburgh, 12–15 Aug: topics to include medieval British liturgies, early polyphony in Britain, music in Naples; recital. Details from Noel O'Regan, Faculty of Music, Alison House, 12 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh EH8 9DF.

3rd Annual Convention of the Association of British Choral Directors, Warwick, 26–8 Aug: with Eric Ericson, Brian Kay, Andrew Greenwood, David Hill, Michael Brewer, Paul Patterson, Judith Weir, Peter Godfrey. Details from Margaret Taylor, ABCD, Music Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL.

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