

ABSTRACT

Title of dissertation: DEDICATIONS FOR DENNIS BRAIN: A MUSICAL
EXPLORATION OF HIS ADDITIONS TO THE
REPERTOIRE OF THE FRENCH HORN

Hilary Kay Hart, Doctor of Musical Arts, 2007

Dissertation directed by: Associate Professor Gregory Miller
Music Department, Chair of Winds and Percussion

Dennis Brain is considered the most well-known, and arguably the greatest horn player of the Twentieth Century. In addition to his contributions in raising the standard of horn playing, he was also a huge proponent of new music for the horn. The impressive list of works written for him includes concertos, sonatas, and chamber music. Interestingly, much of this music is largely unknown, especially outside of Britain, Brain's home country. His sudden death at the height of his career contributes to the fact that these works only received one or two performances. In addition, the number of new works combined with Brain's many performance commitments further explains why these works failed to reach a wider audience. This performance series will be an examination of these unfamiliar works with the inclusion of a work written for his father, Aubrey.

The first performance in this series will be the Gordon Jacob Concerto for Horn and Strings. Written for Dennis Brain in 1951, the work has become a standard in the horn repertoire. This is perhaps the best known and most performed work in this recital series. The premiere performance was in May 1951 with Jacob

conducting and with the success of the performance, Brain made it a regular item in his vast repertoire. The two performances to follow will explore chamber works and the works for horn and piano.

The recital of chamber works will include works written for horn, piano, and violin trio. An avid champion of chamber music throughout his career, Brain formed a wind quintet which eventually expanded into a larger ensemble including the addition of a pianist. Following the success of this ensemble, the Dennis Brain Trio was formed with pianist Wilfred Perry and violinist Jean Pougnet to explore new avenues of music. The formation of this group was to allow performances of horn and violin sonatas, as well as the trios by Brahms and Berkeley, the latter of which was written for Dennis and is featured on this series.

The Lennox Berkeley Trio was commissioned by pianist Colin Horsley. He commissioned it to perform with Dennis Brain, inspired by their previous performance of the Brahms Trio, Op 40. The first performance of this work featured Brain, Horsley and violinist Manoug Parikian.

The work by Ethel Smyth was originally conceived as a double concerto for horn and violin and was written for Aubrey Brain. In an attempt to reach a wider audience, the composer transcribed the work for the trio setting. Though never performed by Dennis Brain in this setting, the work is an important inclusion in this series because it highlights the legacy of not only his playing, but also of inspiring new works for the horn that Dennis Brain continued from his father.

The second recital will explore sonatas and solo works. Since the largest part of Dennis Brain's career consisted of chamber music, orchestral playing, and

concertos, many of these pieces with piano only had one or two performances. Featured works will include the sonata by Peter Racine Fricker, who was a classmate of Dennis Brain's as well as the Sonatine by Heinz Schreier. These two works showcase Brain's desire to promote all types of new music, as well as the music of his friends. The two solo works by Alan Bush, "Autumn Poem" and "Trent's Broad Reaches", were written in memory of the pianist Noel Mewton-Wood.

With these three performances, I hope to introduce works into the regular repertoire of horn that history has unfortunately overlooked. Dennis Brain has served as an inspiration to many generations of horn players, and the music he inspired should be a more well known part of his legacy.

DEDICATIONS FOR DENNIS BRAIN: A MUSICAL
EXPLORATION OF HIS ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF
THE FRENCH HORN

by

Hilary Kay Hart

Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the
University of Maryland, College Park in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Musical Arts
2007

Advisory Committee:

Professor Gregory Miller, chair
Professor Chris Gekker
Professor Mark Hill
Professor James Ross
Professor Steve Marcus

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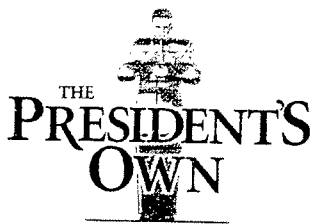
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Documents:

- Abstract
- List of Additional Works
- Programs and Programs Notes from performances

Works Dedicated to Dennis Brain

Malcolm Arnold	Concerto No. 2
Benjamin Britten	Serenade for Horn, Tenor, and Strings Opus 31 Canticle III, "Still Falls the Rain" "Fire" for Tenor, Horn, and Piano "So out of the Dark" for Tenor, Horn, and Piano
Lennox Berkeley	Trio for Horn, Violin, and Piano
Maurice Blower	Concertino
York Bowen	Concerto for Horn, Strings, and Timpani Ballade for Oboe, Horn, and Piano
Alan Bush	Autumn Poem Opus 45 Trent's Broad Reaches Opus 36
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Peter Racine Fricker	Sonata Opus 24
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Gordon Jacob	Concerto Sextet for Winds and Piano
Anthony Lewis	Concerto
Elisabeth Lutyens	Concerto
Frank Martin	Concerto for Seven Wind Instruments, Percussion, and Orchestra
Denis Matthews	Wind Quintet (1939)
Heinz Schreier	Sonatine Opus 12
Humphrey Searle	Aubade for Horn and Strings
Matyas Seiber	Notturmo for Horn and Strings
Ernest Tomlinson	Rhapsody and Rondo for Horn and Orchestra Romance and Rondo for Horn and Orchestra



MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Saturday, July 15, 2006 at 7:30 P.M.
Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center
Northern Virginia Community College
Alexandria Campus
Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting

Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Colburn, Director

“Contemporaries:” Across the Chunnel

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge, Opus 10 (1937)

Introduction and Theme: Lento maestoso; Allegretto poco lento
Adagio
March: Presto alla marcia
Romance: Allegretto grazioso
Aria italiana: Allegro brillante
Bourrée Classique: Allegro e pesante
Viennese Waltz: Lento; vivace
Moto perpetuo: Allegro molto
Funeral March: Andante ritmico
Chant: Lento
Fugue and Finale: Allegro molto vivace; Lento e solenne

Henri Tomasi (1901-1971)

Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra (1953)

Allegro giocoso
Nocturne: Tempo di scherzo; Andantino; Tempo primo
Scherzo-Finale: Vif-scherzando; Andante; Tempo primo scherzo

GySgt John Mula, soloist

INTERMISSION

Gordon Jacob (1895-1984)

Concerto for Horn and Strings (1951)

Allegro moderato
Adagio
Allegro con spirito, quasi presto

SSgt Hilary Hart, soloist

Albert Roussel (1869-1937)

Sinfonietta, Opus 52 (1934)

Allegro molto
Andante
Allegro

The United States Marine Band performs Wednesdays at 8 P.M. on the lower west terrace of the U.S. Capitol and Thursdays at 8:00 P.M. at the Sylvan Theater on the grounds of the Washington Monument during June, July, and August.

For future concert information, call (202) 433-4011 or visit www.marineband.usmc.mil.

PLEASE NOTE: The use of recording devices and flash photography is prohibited during the concert.

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Student Signature

4/24/07
Date

University of Maryland School of Music
Presents a DMA Recital

Hilary Hart, horn
Frank Conlon, piano

Monday April 2, 2007
2:00 pm

Program

Notturmo

Matyas Seiber
(1905-1960)

Sonata, Op 24

Peter Racine Fricker
(1920-1990)

Autumn Poem, Op 45

Alan Bush
(1900-1995)

Trent's Broad Reaches, Op 36

Alan Bush
(1900-1995)

sonatine, Op 12

Heinz Schreier
(1915-2006)

This Recital is given in partial fulfillment for the
Doctorate of Music Degree.

Autumn Poem and Trent's Broad Reaches Alan Bush

Alan Bush was born in London in 1900. He studied music at the Royal Academy of Music with continued studies in Berlin and private studies with John Ireland. Bush's support of Marxism played a major role in his musical life, as well as its reception. He joined the Communist Party in 1935 and presided over the Workers' Music Association from 1941 until his death in 1995.

The two works by Alan Bush, "Autumn Poem" and "Trent's Broad Reaches", were written in 1954 in memory of Noel Newton-Wood, a pianist who committed suicide earlier that year. Conceived as tone poems for horn and piano, the pieces were written specifically for Dennis Brain to play. Brain often performed with Noel Newton-Wood. Benjamin Britten's "Canticle for Horn, Tenor, and Piano" was also written for this occasion.

Sonatine, Op 12. Heinz Schreier

Heinz Schreier was born in Leipzig in 1915. He was most known as a composer for films such as "Emil and The Detectives" (1963). His Sonatine, Op 12 was written for Dennis Brain in 1954. It was premiered in London that same year at the Kenwood Orangery.

Notturmo Matyas Seiber

Matyas Seiber was born in Hungary in 1905. After moving to England in 1935, he spent the rest of his career in this adopted country. He joined the staff of Morley College in 1942 where he became respected composition teacher. Though he was a prolific composer, he is perhaps best known as a teacher. He died in a car accident at age 55 while on a lecture tour in South Africa.

Notturmo was written for Dennis Brain in 1945, dedicated to the memory of Brahms. It was premiered at Wigmore Hall in London.

Sonata, Op 24 Peter Racine Fricker

A descendent of the French playwright Racine, Peter Racine Fricker was an English composer born in 1920. He began his musical studies at the St. Paul's School in Kenwood, where he became acquainted with Dennis Brain. After his military service, Fricker studied composition with Matyas Seiber at Morley College. His first major work was for Wind Quintet that was championed by Dennis Brain and his newly formed wind quintet. This work won Fricker the Clements Memorial Prize in 1947 and subsequently launched his composition career.

The Sonata, Op 24 was written for Dennis Brain in 1955. Brain gave the first performance with Harry Isaacs on March 20, 1955 in Conway Hall.

University of Maryland School of Music
Presents a DMA Recital

Hilary Hart, horn
Erika Sato, violín
Frank Conlon, piano

Tuesday, April 17
2:30 pm

Program

Trío, Op. 44

Lennox Berkeley
(1903 – 1989)

- I. Allegro
- II. Lento
- III. Theme and variations

Concerto for violín and Horn

Ethel Smyth
(1858 – 1944)

- I. Allegro non troppo
- II. Scherzo: Allegro vivace – Allegro molto
- III. Allegretto grazioso – Molto vivace grazioso – Allegretto grazioso
- IV. Fínale: Allegro con brío

This recital is given in partial fulfillment for the
Doctorate of Music Degree.

Concerto for Horn, Violín and Orchestra Ethel Smyth

Ethel Smyth was born into a military family in 1858. She began her musical studies at the Leipzig Conservatory, but she left after just a year to study composition privately with professor Heinrich Herzogenberg. Following her studies and some initial success, Smyth left music for two years to join the militant suffrage group, Women's Social and Political Union. Her "The March of the Women" (1911) became the anthem of the suffrage movement.

The Concerto for Horn and Violín was written in 1927 for Aubrey Brain, Dennis Brain's father, and the violinist Jelly d'Aranyi. The piece was transcribed for the trio setting with piano by the composer, hoping this would allow for more performances of the work. The concerto was written at the end of her career when she was almost completely deaf and her years as a political figure were far behind. Dame Smyth conducted the first performance of the work at a Henry Wood concert on March 5, 1927.

Trio, Op. 44 Lennox Berkeley

Sir Lennox Berkeley was born in 1903 into an aristocratic family. He is of the same generation of the British composers Walton and Tippett, however his style was quite different than this traditional English style. These differences are rooted in his French ancestry, his years of study in France, as well as his personal friendships with both Ravel and Poulenc. Berkeley's biggest English influence was Benjamin Britten, even though Britten was ten years younger.

The Trio, Op. 44, written in 1952, was commissioned by pianist Colin Horsley. He commissioned the work to perform with Dennis Brain, inspired by their previous performance of the Brahms Trio, Op 40 which is for the same instrumentation. The first performance of this work featured Dennis Brain, Colin Horsley, and violinist Manoug Parikian. This performance was in March of 1953 at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.