

MUSIC DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, CORK
IRELAND



SEVENTEENTH

seminar

ON

contemporary
choral music

APRIL 30th — MAY 2nd, 1981

In conjunction with

The TWENTY-EIGHTH CORK INTERNATIONAL
CHORAL AND FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL
(April 29th — May 3rd)

SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY CHORAL MUSIC

A SEMINAR on Contemporary Choral Music will be held at University College, Cork from April 30th — May 2nd inclusive, in conjunction with the Twenty-eighth International Choral and Folk Dance Festival (April 29th — May 3rd).

Three composers' works will be featured at the Seminar and Festival, namely :

Dr. Wilfred Josephs (U.K.) — *Spring Songs*

The New London Singers, conducted by Geoffrey Mitchell

John Buckley (Ireland) — *Scél Len Dúib*

(Three Songs from the old Irish)

The RTÉ Singers, conducted by Colin Mawby

Sven-Erik Bäck (Sweden) — *The Naming of the Cats*

(T. S. Elliott)

Nicolai Chamber Choir (Stockholm), conducted by
Christian Ljunggren

The Seminar will consist of analyses of the works in turn, followed by discussions in which the composers, conductors and members of the Seminar will take part. Each discussion will be followed by a performance of the work by the relevant choir, with a further discussion on the interpretation, while audience reaction will be judged by a public performance of the work in the Festival programme on the same night.

PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29th

7.45 p.m. City Hall — Cork International Choral and Folk Dance Festival

Opening of the Festival by Dr. James White (Chairman, Arts Council)

THURSDAY, APRIL 30th, AULA MAXIMA, U.C.C.

11 a.m. — Seminar on the work of Dr. Wilfred Josephs
Directed by Prof. David Wulstan

Performance of *Spring Songs* by the New London Singers,
conducted by Geoffrey Mitchell

1.30 p.m. — Lunch-hour Recital presented by the Music
Department, U.C.C.:

Pro Musica Instrumental Ensemble,
led by Máire Ní Cheallacháin

Trio Sonata in D minor Op. 5 No. 2 Baffini

Andante and Allegro in D minor Telemann

Violin Concerto in A minor Op. 3, No. 6 Vivaldi

8.00 p.m. — City Hall

FRIDAY, MAY 1st, AULA MAXIMA, U.C.C.

11 a.m. — Seminar on the work of John Buckley
Directed by Prof. Aloys Fleischmann

Performance of *Scél Len Dúib*
by the RTÉ Singers, conducted by Colin Mawby

1.30 p.m. — Lunch-hour Recital presented by the Music
Department, U.C.C.:

Bernard Harrison (Piano)

Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel Brahms

8.00 p.m. — City Hall

SATURDAY, MAY 2nd. AULA MAXIMA, U.C.C.

11 a.m. — Seminar on the work of Sven-Eric Bäck
Directed by Dr. Geoffrey Spratt

Performance of *The Naming of the Cats*
by The Nicolai Chamber Choir (Stockholm) conducted by
Christian Ljunggren

1.30 p.m. — Orchestral Concert presented by the Music
Department, U.C.C.

U.C.C. Chamber Orchestra (Leader: Una Flanagan)
Conductor: Geoffrey Spratt

Concerto Grosso Op. 3, No. 3 Handel
(Solo Flute : John O'Connor; Solo Violin : Una Flanagan)

Adagio for Clarinet and Strings Wagner
(Solo Clarinet : Walter Lorenz)

Serenade Op. 1 for Wind R. Strauss

Bill Skinner

DAVID ARMSTRONG — *Macnamh Meánóiche*

St. Peters Choral Group, conducted by Peter Mooney

JAMES BARRY — *Tonn*

Cantairi Mhuscraí, Conducted by John Fitzpatrick

MICHAEL HOLOHAN — *Stroinn*

Parnassian Singers, conducted by the Composer

REV. PATRICK McCARR — *Cailís Dé*

Carlow Choral Union, conducted by the Composer

MARGARET MAHER — *Crisis*

Madrigal 75, conducted by Donal O'Callaghan

AIDAN O'CARROLL — *Caoineadh*

Finlay Consort, conducted by the Composer

8.00 p.m. — City Hall

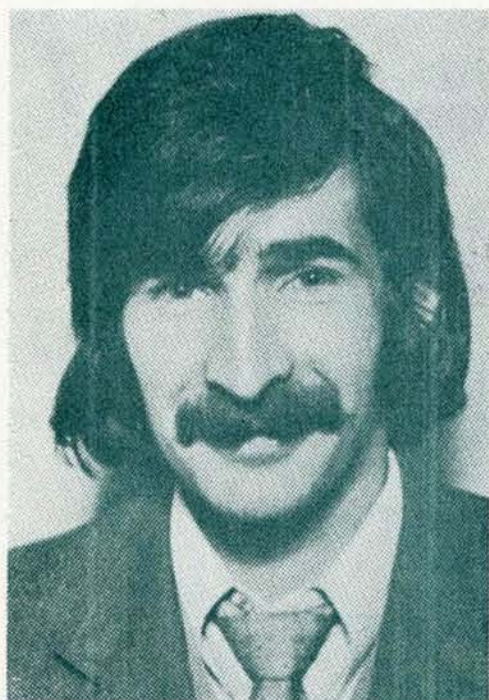


WILFRED JOSEPHS

Born in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1927. In 1951 he graduated in dentistry and served for two years in the army, in England and in Germany. During this time he was awarded first prize for his Piano Trio at Stichting Gaudeamus. In 1954 he was awarded a scholarship to study at the Guildhall School of Music with Professor Alfred Nieman. In 1958 he went to Paris for a year on a Leverhulme Scholarship where he studied with Maitre Max Deutsch. Returning to London in 1959, he began to write music for films and television and continued composing concert music. He was awarded the Harriet Cohen Commonwealth Medal, the Guildhall School Composition Prize and prizes in Jeunesses Musicales and Liège Quartet Competitions.

In 1963 he was awarded the First Prize in the First International Composition Competition of La Scala and the City of Milan for his **Requiem**. This proved to be a turning point in his career. He abandoned dentistry and was able to spend more time on serious composition. In addition, writing music for BBC Television's renowned 'Great War' series led to many other commissions for important feature films and television. The **Requiem** was twice performed in La Scala in 1965, then in Sheffield and Manchester (1966), three times in Cincinnati and twice in New York's Carnegie Hall in 1967. In September of the same year the London première at the Royal Festival Hall followed a BBC broadcast. The Paris Première was conducted by Max Deutsch in May 1970, and three performances were given in Chicago in February 1972 by Carla Maria Giulini conducting the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The composer was able to be present as he was Visiting Professor of Composition & Orchestration, from February to July, at Chicago's Roosevelt University. (He had occupied a similar post in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1970). Charles Mackerras conducted the **Requiem** in Rotterdam in December 1972.

Concert commissions began to come his way, including the Concerto de Camera, the Meditatio de Beornmundo, the Chinese and Japanese Lyrics, Symphonies 3-6, the choral works **Mortales** and **A Child of the Universe**, the Saratoga Concerto and the two piano concertos, **The Appointment** (a television opera), and the Concerto for Two Violins. Virtually all his serious works are now written to commission, but only if that commission coincides with something he already deeply wishes to write. His time is now entirely devoted to composition.



JOHN BUCKLEY

Born in Co. Limerick, in 1951. Between 1969 and 1971 he studied flute with Doris Keogh, and composition with James Wilson at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Since 1977 his composition studies have been with Prof. Alun Hoddinott in Cardiff. In 1980 he was awarded the M.A. Degree in Composition from U.C.C.

His output is varied — works for solo instruments, chamber ensembles, choirs, bands and orchestra, including the frequently performed **Taller Than Roman Spears** for Symphony Orchestra (1977), and the choral work **Pulvis et Umbra** (1979). His works have been widely performed in Ireland during such

festivals as the Dublin Festival of 20th Century Music, the Belfast Arts Festival and the Kilkenny Arts Week, where he was composer in residence in 1976. R.T.E. radio has broadcast a large number of his works and in September 1979 organized a public recital entirely devoted to his compositions. The International Rostrum of Composers has brought him broadcasts in numerous countries throughout Europe.

He has received a number of prizes and awards for composition, among them the Varming Prize for his Wind Quintet in 1977 and in 1978 he was awarded the Macaulay Fellowship to help continue his studies. He has been the recipient of many commissions from such bodies as Kilkenny Arts Week, Dublin Festival of 20th Century Music, Music Dept., Cardiff University, R.T.E. and the Irish Government. John Buckley is a founder member of the Association of Irish Composers.



SVEN-ERIK BÄCK

Born in 1919. As a student of composition under Hilding Rosenberg, the great Swedish composer, Sven-Erik Bäck drew significant inspiration from the Gregorian chant, baroque music, and the style of Webern and the serialists. Religious motifs, and the idea of music first and foremost as a spiritual force profoundly influenced his aesthetics; expressionistically characterized by an intense, yet lyrical and dramatic clarity.

In the Chamber Symphony, his first work of international acclaim, melodic, harmonic, oral and rhythmic possibilities are developed within one tonal series. In this work, as in many other Bäck compositions, we find delicate ornamentation strongly reminiscent of the baroque period united with powerfully imaginative sound. In the opera **"The Twilight Cranes"**, one of the most important works in Swedish musical drama, the pointillist music patterns are integrated with a warm lyricism. The orchestral work **"A Game around a Game"**, **"Favola for clarinet and five percussionists"**, the String Quartets no. 2 and 3, the ballets **"Ikaros"** and **"Movements"** and the evangelic motets for mixed choir, comprise some of the most significant works in Swedish music. The electronic composition **"In Principio"** (performed at the Cheltenham Festival, England, in 1971), is one of the most sensational of his latest works.

Many of these works have been commissioned by leading Swedish and foreign institutions, and many have been performed, some for the first time, at well-known music festivals, such as the ISCM's World Music Festival, the Warsaw Festival, the Zagreb Biennial, the Donaueschingen Musiktage and others. The composer is Principal of the Swedish Radio's Music School in Edsberg, near Stockholm. For Bäck, music is a game — and something more: a game to be played on a sounding-board in the deepest area of human experience.

Admission to Seminar — Free

Season Ticket for Choral Festival

Balcony . . . £12.50

Front Parterre . . . £10.00

Back Parterre . . . £ 8.50

(Application may be made separately for Seminar or for Choral Festival, or for both. Details of accommodation available will be supplied on request.)

Applications should be addressed (before April 15th) to:—

THE SECRETARY,
SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY CHORAL MUSIC,
MUSIC DEPARTMENT,
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,
CORK, IRELAND

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APPLICATION FORM

Name (Block Letters)

Address

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I wish to apply for membership of the Seminar on Contemporary Choral Music.

I also wish to apply for a season ticket for the Choral Festival, and
enclose cheque for.....