



The Cobbett Association for Chamber Music Research

6827 Roxbury Dr. Sarasota, Fl. 34231 Tel. 813-922-6986

Planning Ahead...1991

The Cobbett Association has an ambitious program of chamber music research planned for 1991 and the future. The evaluation of 78 string quartets in the enclosed listing is the first installment of about 400 non-standard quartets. To complete the string quartet project alone will involve hundreds of hours of additional research and playing time by staff and council members who volunteer their time.

As research progresses, there will eventually be reports and listings of string quintets, sextets, string trios, and duets, followed by chamber music for piano and strings. This will include violin (and viola) and piano sonatas, piano trios, piano quartets and quintets, and miscellaneous combinations.

Dr. Herbert Fiss, first violinist of our Palm Strings Quartet, is also an accomplished pianist, which gives us the capability of evaluating chamber music for piano and strings.

A BIG THANK YOU...

to all who telephoned or wrote us letters expressing interest and enthusiasm in the new Cobbett Association which was announced in September, 1990. Your encouragement was greatly appreciated, and you will be kept on our mailing list.

To those who didn't respond -- remember, the door is always open. If you desire to be kept on our mailing list, be sure to let us know.

THE NEW ASSOCIATION BRINGS GOOD RESPONSE

Telephone calls and letters poured in from far and wide after the September newsletter announced the formation of the Cobbett Association. The first newsletter was sent to 100 professional and amateur musicians. Interested readers asked to be placed on our mailing list, and many requested information on how to find rare, out of print chamber music. Later on, when news articles appeared in the Dec. issue of THE STRAD magazine and the Dec. newsletter of the Amateur Chamber Music Players, more inquiries arrived and are still coming in.

HOW TO FIND RARE MUSIC

At some time during their lives, a certain number of enthusiastic chamber music players discover they've been missing something and decide to play works other than the standard classics. Our readers have already asked for information on locating such music. Those of us who have accumulated a sizable library of rare music will verify that it can be done, but will require initiative and persistence.

Most of the music evaluated by our Association is long out of print. Works by the more recent composers may still be in print. You can try ordering them through your local classical music store or by contacting major suppliers, three of which are listed here with their toll-free phone numbers. (Cont'd on next page)

How to Find Rare Music (Cont'd)

Carl Fischer, 312 S. Wabash,
Chicago, IL, 60604 (800-621-2323)
Shar Products, 2465 S. Industrial,
P.O. Box 1411, Ann Arbor, MI, 48106
(800-248-SHAR)
C & H Music, P.O. Box 7328,
Gaithersburg, MD, 20898-7328
(800-233-3384)

Obtain a price before ordering, and if it involves an import, expect it to be expensive.

Our enclosed lists will not include the publisher since many are out of business or have been sold. Also, publications of music in print are not always up-to-date. The music dealers can best determine a current publisher, if any, since they have publisher's catalogues.

For out of print music that can't be purchased, an excellent source is the inter-library loan system where you can borrow music, through your local library, from libraries nationwide.

Another good source, which is not a part of the inter-library loan system, is the music department of the Philadelphia Free Library, Logan Square, Philadelphia, PA, 19103, (215-686-5316) Contact the Chamber Music Librarian. If the library has the work, you'll be quoted a deposit fee which is returned when you return the music.

Also, for members of the Amateur Chamber Music Players, Inc., the Helen Rice Memorial Collection offers a free catalogue of chamber music that can be borrowed. Write or call Vernon Martin, Hartford Public Library, 500 Main St, Hartford, CT 06103 (203-293-6000).

And worth checking out are public libraries in larger cities which sometimes have large chamber music collections donated to them. And don't forget music libraries at colleges and universities, especially music schools and conservatories. When on vacation, you can visit such places and make arrangements for copies of rare works,

providing there is no infringement of the copyright.

Another source is second hand music stores which deal in classical music. Large cities often have such stores.

Finally, if you attend summer chamber music workshops, the colleges offering these usually have large collections of chamber music.

Explanation of Enclosed List of String Quartets

The enclosed list of 78 string quartets, evaluated by the Cobbett Association, is the first installment (A through D). As evaluation progresses, the list will be continued with each newsletter until complete -- the total being about 400.

Space limitation prevents an elaborate write-up on each quartet, but if further information is needed, we will be glad to furnish what is available in our files and reference books. We also refer you to The Cobbett Cyclopedic Survey of Chamber Music (3 vols.) and Groves 20 vol. dictionary which are excellent sources.

The string quartets insert will be followed by other chamber music categories. Those who remain on our mailing list will eventually have the Association's complete list of recommended works. Supplements to the basic lists may also be developed.

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PIANO TRIO RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

The world of the piano trio-- piano, violin, and cello-- offers a vast amount of literature to chamber music players who love this combination. Well-known composers, as well as obscure ones, devoted a remarkable amount of creative talent to the trio. But, alas, some of the most beautiful and inspired ones are hardly ever played in America.

It will take years of research to complete the evaluation of some 400 non-standard trios available to the Cobbett Association. Eventually, the worth-while ones will be rated and listed.

For the time being, we are listing several outstanding and rewarding ones that have been unfairly neglected. The level of difficulty and value ratings follow the brief description of each trio.

BRIDGE, Frank (1879-1941) English. Phantasy Trio C minor (1908) Excellent example of the form. Won Cobbett prize. Moderate - Excellent

HINTON, Arthur (1869-1941) English. Trio in D minor, op. 21. A big, passionate work with strong rhythms. Contrapuntal with brilliant work for all three players. Late romantic. Moderate - Excellent

HURLSTONE, Wm. (1876-1906) English. Trio in G. A lyric, fresh and attractive work with a Scotch tune in the finale. Romantic English style. Moderate - Very Good

JONGEN, Joseph (1873-1953) Belgian. Trio in F# minor op. 30 (Pf, Vln, Viola) Very valuable work for this combination by an important Belgian composer. An original work in late romantic and impressionistic style. Moderate - Excellent

LEKEU, G. (1870-1894) Belgian. Trio in C. minor (1908) A very beautiful and emotional work in the romantic Belgian style. Highly original and inspired. Moderate - Excellent

PFITZNER, Hans (1869-1949) German. Trio in F op 8. Very original trio in his style of late German Romanticism. Brahmsian in feeling, but not a copy of Brahms. Difficult-Very Good

ROPARTZ, Guy (1864-1955) French. Trio in A minor (1918) His best chamber work in cyclic form. Has originality. Style of the late French Romantic but with his accent. Difficult -- Excellent

SMETANA, B. (1824-1884) Czech. Trio in G minor, Op 15. Expresses tragedy and tenderness. Liszt loved this trio. Has unusual and interesting structure. Moderate - Very Good

VOLKMANN, Robt (1815-1883) German. Trio No. 2, Op 5 in B^b minor. A favorite of Liszt to whom it was dedicated. A bold, serious, and elegaic work that made the composer famous. Difficult -- Excellent

Contributions Needed

There are no dues for being on the Cobbett Association's mailing list and no charges for answering inquiries about rare music. However, contributions of any amount are needed to help with the expenses of running the organization, and they will be gratefully received.

Staff and Advisory Council Members are not paid for time spent on the organization's activities.

Hard To Find Classical Records

Anyone having difficulty finding recordings of rare works on compact discs may be able to find them on LPs through David Canfield, a member of our Advisory Council.

Dave is in the record business and specializes in out-of-print classical LPs. He travels to Europe regularly to find unusual records. Write for his catalogue at Ars Antiqua, 1707 E. 2nd St., Bloomington, IN 47401 (812-333-2334)

EXPLORING SELDOM PLAYED VIOLIN AND PIANO SONATAS

There are riches in store for violinists and pianists who desire to expand their musical knowledge and explore the great amount of sonata literature for this combination. It is not necessary to keep repeating the same sonatas one studies in college.

Listed below is a sampling of outstanding works that have stood the test of time in Europe but are very rarely played in this country. In the future we will be reporting many others that are worthy of studying.

DUNHILL, Thomas F. (1877-1946) Eng. Op.50 in F (1916) His most mature work. Thoroughly English. Diatonic style with some dissonance, but not without expressive romantic moments. Finale is like a song of joyful praise. Moderate - Excellent.

ELGAR, Edward (1857-1934) English. Sonata in E minor Op.82. A very violinistic masterwork with a mystical and meditative slow movement. Excellent example of his brand of English romanticism. Moderate - Excellent.

FERGUSON, Howard (1908-) English No. 1 Op 2 (1931) Brilliant and imaginative work by a little known composer. Neo-classical in concept. Recorded by Heifetz. Last movement in fantasy form. Difficult-Excellent.

FRISKIN, James (1886-1967) Scottish-American. Sonata Op.5 in G. The gift of melody is displayed in this early work by this renowned piano teacher who taught at Julliard. Late romantic style with marked originality. Moderate - Very Good

IRELAND, John (1879-1962) English. Sonata No.1 in D minor. This noted composer received the Cobbett Prize for this sonata. Very passionate and romantic work with marked originality. Difficult - Excellent

JONGEN, Joseph (1873-1953) Belgian. Sonata No.2 in E Op.34 Late romantic-impressionistic work by a leading Belgian composer. Very original. Moderate - Excellent

LEKEU, G. (1870-1894) Belgium. Sonata in G. His masterpiece. Was recorded by Arthur Grumiaux with good results. A long and temperamental work filled with poignant emotion and great energy. Very original. Moderate -- Excellent.

SCHUTTE, Edward (1856-1933), Austrian. First Suite in D, Op.44. Known for his provocative salon music of a high level, he offers a charming and lively work which features a canzonetta with variations as well as a rondo in Russian style. Some French as well as Viennese flavor. Moderate - Very Good

TURINA, Joaquin (1882-1949) Spanish. Sonata No.1 Op.51. Full of national charm, dramatic episodes, and typical Spanish rhythms, this work is a real challenge for both players in handling ensemble problems. Lots of double stops and recitative for the violin. Difficult - Excellent.

VORICEK, Jan V. (1791-1825) Czech. Sonata Op.5 in G. A very beautiful and inspired work by a contemporary of Beethoven and Schubert. Some resemblance to Beethoven's style, but that does not detract from its effectiveness and value since it expresses the romantic ideals of the period so well. Moderate - Excellent

Coordinator's Corner

As you can see, this newsletter is not a "slick" publication. We don't feature fancy artwork, color photos, special type on shiny paper, plus learned articles on various aspects of music by eminent musicologists. All this is very desirable, but expensive. Besides, it is already available in other publications.

Instead, we are trying hard to provide information to those who are especially interested in rare, neglected chamber music -- information that is seldom found in the high-powered music magazines.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

The purpose of this organization is to study, evaluate, and preserve rare and neglected chamber music of special merit, and to share information and encourage the performance of such music.

