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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From Richard Derby

I just received my copy of the January issue of *Tempo*, and with it the results of the Masterpiece Poll.

The results are encouraging. The selections are thoughtful, respectable, and defensible. I can add my enthusiastic endorsement to several nominations (in addition to my own of Elliott Carter's Fifth String Quartet) – Birtwistle's *Earth Dances*, Lutoslawski's Symphony No. 3, and Maxwell Davies's Symphony No. 2 especially. Perhaps there is hope for new music after all.

It would have been nice to see entries representing Magnus Lindberg and Oliver Knussen. I don't want to hurt someone's feelings, but one of the pieces nominated has to be one of the silliest pieces I have ever heard or seen. Diversity of opinion thrives.

The really intriguing nomination was from the editor: Leopold Spinner's Chamber Symphony. When I was a young student in the 1960s, I actually played and enjoyed Spinner's *Inventions* for piano. I have since read everything I can about the composer and his music and sought (unsuccessfully) to hear any of his music in concert or on recording. It seems clear that a recording of his music should be one of the highest priorities, if for no other reason than that this talented and interesting composer has been absolutely neglected. It is not hard to imagine why, with the current post-minimalist, post-modernist trends, Spinner has dropped out of sight, but perhaps that can be rectified soon.

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