

Manuscripts

GUSTAV HOLST. A search is being undertaken for the missing autograph score of the original brass military version of Holst's Prelude and Scherzo *Hammersmith*. Anyone possessing information as to its present whereabouts is asked to communicate with the Editor-in-Chief, TEMPO, 295 Regent Street, London W1R 8JH.

HAVERGAL BRIAN. Following an appeal from the Havergal Brian Society in various musical journals for information about missing works of this composer, the full score of *The Tigers* was brought to light by Southern Music Publishing Ltd., who had discovered the three stoutly-bound volumes – believed missing since the War – among rubbish for disposal when they came to occupy their present premises several years ago. The find makes possible at last a production of one of the most individual of all British operas, whose substance has long been known through the vocal score published in 1932.

The Tigers, to the composer's own libretto, is an anti-war, anti-authority satire, a send-up of heroics and wartime attitudes in World War I England remarkable for its time of

composition (1916-18); the more so as its anarchic comedy, dreamlike visions and inconsequentiality anticipate aspects of Surrealism and *The Goon Show* in about equal measure. The style ranges from parodies of Richard Strauss (*Heldenleben* invoked for a battle-scene) to music-hall tunes ('Has Anybody here seen Kelly?') is treated to an extended set of symphonic variations during a police manhunt).

The newly-recovered full score reveals unsuspected innovations in the instrumentation. Brian's large orchestra includes two vibraphones (pre-dating by several years Berg's use of one in *Lulu*, previously accepted as the earliest scoring for vibraphone in a serious work) and these are employed in consort with a tubaphone (previously thought to have been used first by Khachaturian in 1943).

Meanwhile in Brian's native Stoke-on-Trent a large number of local enthusiasts are preparing an amateur performance of his mammoth *Gothic Symphony* (1919-27), which has only twice before been heard in its entirety. A 'Stoke Gothic Symphony Orchestra' of 180 players has been formed, with a chorus of 700, and the performance is scheduled for 21 May in the Victoria Hall, Hanley.

CALUM MACDONALD

OBITUARY

OLGA KOUSSEVITSKY

The news of Olga Koussevitsky's death in New York on 5 January 1978 must have come as a great shock to her innumerable friends and admirers. On her husband Serge's death in 1951, Olga succeeded him as President of the Koussevitsky Music Foundation, which he had established in 1942 in memory of his first wife, Natalie. She also succeeded her husband as President of the American International Music Fund, which he had founded in 1948 under the auspices of UNESCO to promote the performance, recording and broadcasting of contemporary music. She later became a member of the US Commission for UNESCO. After accompanying her husband on several visits to Israel, she became co-chairman with Leonard Bernstein of the Music for Israel Committee. In addition to holding numerous other posts, she was co-chairman, with Aaron Copland, of the Britten Memorial Committee, and board member of the Lili Boulanger Memorial Fund. In a tribute, Bernstein called her 'that fragile Rock of Gibraltar on whom so many of us depended for significant links with a past of love and beauty'. She will be greatly missed.