

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL CONCERTS

National Gallery of Art

1640th Concert



NATIONAL GALLERY ORCHESTRA
RICHARD BALES, *CONDUCTOR*

Sunday Evening, November 22, 1981 at Seven
West Building, East Garden Court

PROGRAM

Jeffrey Bishop "The Unquiet Grave" or
(b. 1943) "How cold the wind doth blow" (1979)

Soloists

Donald Hefner, *cor anglais*

Nancy Ellsworth, *violin*

First Performance

Virgil Thomson Symphony No. 1 "On a Hymn Tune"
(b. 1896) (1926-28)

Introduction and Allegro

Andante cantabile

Allegretto

Allegro

Played in honor of the composer's 85th birthday
on November 25

INTERMISSION

Johannes Brahms Symphony No. 4 in E Minor, Opus 98
(1833-97) (1884-85)

Allegro non troppo

Andante moderato

Allegro giocoso

Allegro energico e passionato

Jeffrey Bishop was born in Hastings, England, in 1943. He began to compose at the age of eight. Sir Malcolm Sargeant noticed his talent and urged him to study composition. At Sargeant's instigation he entered the Royal College of Music, London, and studied with Herbert Howells and Sir Adrian Boult, eventually winning all the composition prizes, the only person ever to do so.

He then lived in London and subsequently New York as a violinist, composer, publisher, and in London as conductor of the Avebury Singers. His music has been heard in Europe, the U.S.A and the Soviet Union.

In the forthcoming year there will be performances in the Pompidou center in Paris and London as well as other British and European cities, in Boston, Washington, New York, and in Canada and Russia.

The composer has supplied the following program notes on his work, which receives its first performance at this concert.

"The Unquiet Grave" or "How cold the wind doth blow" was written, quite exceptionally for me at a single sitting in the fall of 1979. The piece is a miniature tone poem, the narrative being taken from the folk-song which also provides the melody and the title. English folk-song is often assumed to be cheerful, bucolic and pastoral. In fact some of the finest are bleak metaphysical musings on death. In this song a woman has mourned at the grave of her lover for a year and a day. From the grave he asks why? "One more kiss from thy lily-white lips I crave". He grants it her, but points out that she must join him in the grave. The two are united in death, only the cold wind is left blowing over the grave.

The solo *cor anglais* takes the dead man's part, a solo violin hers. The first part develops into an extended love duet against the moaning of the wind. The climax is the kiss which is followed by a transfigured version of the duet which dies away leaving only the wind still blowing.

JEFFREY BISHOP

This concert is broadcast by Station WGMS 570 AM and 103.5 FM.