

Two 20th Century British Composers John Ireland & Herbert Howells

by William T. Horne

The twentieth century, certainly a turbulent one for Britain, produced an abundance of prolific, talented composers. Among the masters were counted Edward Elgar, Frederic Delius, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gustav Holst, William Walton, Michael Tippett, and Benjamin Britten. All these plus many other, talented, but less well-known composers also trained at the Royal College of Music under Charles Villiers Stanford from the period of 1883 to 1923. This article is about the chamber works of two of them.

John Ireland

John Ireland (1879-1962) is one of the few composers whose early success and lasting reputation derived from piano works, chamber pieces and songs. His few orchestral works appeared much later in his life, but are also lush and wonderful works.

Born in Cheshire to a 70 year old father and 40 year old mother, he was close to his mother and precocious on the piano. His home

life included great exposure to literature, especial Victorian and pre-Raphaelite poets. Despite this intellectual stimulation, his rather painful childhood led to insecurity; he was an outsider among his siblings who humiliated and beat him. He hated being sent away to school and ran away. The death of his parents in his early teens preceded his enrolling in the Royal College of Music at age 14, where he chose to major in composition after only one year, studying with Charles Villiers Stanford.



Zdenek Fibich The Chamber Music

Part 3

by Renz Opolis

(In the first two parts of this article, the author discussed and analyzed Fibich's Piano Trio in f, the Piano Quartet Op.11 and his First String Quartet in A.)



As noted in the early part of my article, Fibich's first three chamber works dated from 1873-4, during the 18 months he worked in Vilnius as a choirmaster. He returned to Prague in the autumn of 1874 where shortly thereafter his wife died, soon followed by his infant daughter. During the next four years, he held various posts, the two most important being second conductor at the National Theater and conductor of the Russian Orthodox Church in Prague. In the interim he had remarried and his wife had given birth to a son.

Fibich's **String Quartet No.2 in G Major, Op.8** was composed in 1878 and is the only one of his three works for string quartet that was published during his lifetime. In four movements, the opening movement,

Allegro moderato, almost sounds like it is beginning in mid-phrase:



Genial in mood, it does not sound much different from the style of his earlier work. His clear gift for melody is very apparent not only here but throughout the quartet. Initially, there is nothing at all suggestive of Bohemian or Czech melody, and yet as

A Practical Guide To Sight-Reading

FOR EXPERIENCED MUSICIANS AND
THOSE WHO WANT TO BECOME SO

Or

*How improving your chamber music sight-reading skills
will make you a better performer*

PART 2

by Peter Lang

(In Part I, which appeared in the last issue, the author discussed the sight-reading problems of "soloists" and the concept of relative dynamics)

All musicians are subject to another problem that can make sight-reading a frustrating experience. In fact this problem affects all mortals in all their endeavors. **Habititis** is a good name for it. We are all subject to habits. Without them we could not function in anything we do. Of course this applies to playing a musical instrument. We must spend years struggling to learn good habits so that the vast majority of everything we do when playing our instrument becomes automatic. Good teachers will not only concentrate on helping us to develop good habits but also monitor us during our training to make sure we don't develop bad habits; i.

IN THIS ISSUE

Letters to the Editor.....	2
John Ireland & Herbert Howells' Chamber Music.....	3
Zdenek Fibich—The Chamber Music Part 3.....	3
A Practical Guide to Sight-Reading Part 2.....	3
At the Double Bar.....	4
New Recordings.....	7
Diskology: Gernsheim, Karg-Elert & Arbós.....	14
Mandelring String Quartet Joins Cobbett Assn.....	15