

News from Snape

On 21 November Britten's dream of establishing a School for Advanced Musical Studies was brought a step nearer its final realization when conversion began on the South Block of the Maltings complex which will house practice rooms, seminar rooms and a library. Work is expected to be completed in a year's time. The recital room, the largest teaching area in the School, which has movable seating and also projection facilities, will be ready by June when it will be used for Festival exhibitions.

Since its modest beginnings in 1973 with a weekend for singers, the activities of the School have grown steadily, concentrating on two main areas of study: singing and string playing directed by Peter Pears and Cecil Aronowitz. Later it is hoped to add other disciplines. In addition the School offers a varied programme of 'Academic Studies'. The highlight of 1977 was a weekend devoted to the music and dance of Thailand and in 1978 a weekend symposium on aspects of Britten's music is planned, together with a course on composing for children. For singers, there is a month of study in July and August on the music of Bach, Schubert, Monteverdi and English composers from Dowland to Britten.

Although almost two-thirds of the money required for conversion work has been found, £200,000 is still needed as is money for equipping the school and providing endowments.

IRCAM

During the months of July and September, IRCAM is presenting a series of concerts in conjunction with a major exhibition at the Pompidou Centre entitled 'Paris—Berlin'. The programmes have been devised by David Drew and concentrate on musical developments in the German capital during the first three decades of the 20th century. Themes such as 'The Romantic Heritage', 'Busoni, Scherchen and the New Music', 'Schoenberg's Berlin Pupils' and 'From Cabaret to Agitprop' allow for a very wide selection of composers: not only the major influences in Berlin—Busoni, Schreker, Schoenberg, Hindemith, Weill and Krenek—but also such important figures as Haba, Jarnach, Gerhard, Skalkottas and Wolpe. The instrumentalists are drawn from L'Ensemble InterContemporain and the soloists include Roswita Trexler and the violinist Maryvonne Le Dizes-Richard.

Oxford Studies of Composers (15)

Skryabin

Hugh Macdonald

Skryabin, a composer of great originality saved from probable madness only by his early death, was the leading younger Russian composer of the early years of this century, and an important figure in the final stages of late romantic music.

As with all the *Oxford Studies of Composers* series, this book lays emphasis on Skryabin's music, biographical data being kept to a minimum. It will be an invaluable complement to the several biographical studies currently available. £2.95



Oxford University Press