Stanko

HORVAT



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STANKO HORVAT

FOREWORD

It is now five years since the death of the Croatian composer Stanko Horvat, an irreplaceable figure in Croatian music of the second part of the 20th century. Born in Zagreb on 12th March 1930, he died there on 30th October 2006. Sadly, as many feared, recent performances of his music have all but dried up — a fate suffered all too often by other recently departed Croatian composers like Branimir Sakač and Natko Devčić, for example. It goes to show how difficult it is to establish a core repertoire of modern Croatian music outside the limited confines of specialist festivals of contemporary music.

The aim of this book is not to make up for a lack of performances of Horvat's music. To ensure he is not completely forgotten, several of us have collaborated in this collection of personal memoirs of Stanko Horvat thanks largely to the initiative of the composer's daughter, Nina. We are well aware that this is just a small contribution to honour the memory of this great composer. His large output, which holds such a significant place in new Croatian music but is still mostly unresearched, suggests an in–depth and thorough musicological analysis of his work is long overdue. While Horvat made his mark principally as a composer, he also contributed to the lives of others through his teaching and his work as a promoter and organiser of musical performances. So far these have only received a mention in his biography.

We hope this book will serve not just as a reminder, but as positive encouragement for further research into Horvat's musical contribution.

Nikša Gligo, on behalf of all contributors, 2011