

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

presents

A PIANO RECITAL

by

GEORGINA SMITH

AT THE

MANOEL THEATRE

Saturday, 10th October 1970

PROGRAMME

SONATAS IN Bb and F

SCARLATTI (1685 - 1757)

The virtuoso keyboard player spent much of his life as music director in the various palaces of the Court of Spain, where he wrote almost 600 sonatas for harpsichord (the keyboard instrument of the day) — these were short pieces, of considerable dexterity, exploring rhythmic variety and mood to the utmost.

SIX PRELUDES

LENNOX BERKELEY

Born near Oxford in 1903, partly of French descent, Lennox Berkeley is one of the most important English composers today. His piano works are nearly always elegant, charming and with some humour, using unusual and vivid harmonies.

SONATA IN C MINOR

SCHUBERT (1797 - 1828)

During his very short life Schubert wrote over 600 songs, symphonies, choral works, chamber music etc., and many works for the piano. The last three great piano sonatas (including this one in C minor) were written in the last year of his life, with the C minor sonata seeming to pay a special tribute to Beethoven, Schubert's great idol, who had died only the year before. The Sonata, at this stage, had reached gigantic proportions (compared with the Scarlatti), with four movements featuring much development and contrast of the main themes — the last movement being built almost entirely on a two note figure, yet, in Schubert's hands its variety and possibilities are such that it seems incapable of coming to a halt.

'FUNERAILLES'

LISZT (1811 - 1886)

'GONDOLIERA'

'TARANTELLA' from 'VENEZIA E NAPOLI'

The great Hungarian virtuoso pianist, teacher and composer has had a profound influence on all musical spheres. His vivid imagination, coupled with his love of travel, gave him much scope in composing and in these three pieces various scenes of the day are portrayed: - *Funerailles*, written after the Hungarian revolt of 1849, opens with the sombre tolling of the funeral bell, followed by the funeral march itself, and then a lively finale. *Gondoliera* uses a Venetian popular tune of the day (which Rossini uses in 'Othello'). The *Tarantella*, a piece of great virtuosity (and a favourite piece of Liszt's), again uses a popular tune of the day, with typical virtuoso passages alternating with lyrical treatment.

'OISEAUX TRISTES'

RAVEL (1875 - 1937)

'ALBORADA DEL GRAZIOSO' from 'MIROIRS'

Like Debussy, Ravel is an impressionistic composer. In these two pieces the most uncanny sounds are portrayed — the haunting bird call in 'Oiseaux Tristes' and the sounds of the sudden flight of the birds in the middle of the piece, and in 'The Morning Song of the Jester' the guitar-like rhythms, the soulful song in the middle, and the vigorous, highly colourful Spanish scene are presented to us in Ravel's extraordinary mastery of tonal colours.

— INTERVAL —

Georgina Smith



Georgina Smith, the young New Zealand born pianist, began her successful career in her own country. In Trinity College and Associated Board examinations she gained the highest marks in New Zealand seven times, and whilst studying for her Mus. Bac. degree at Otago University she won all the University prizes.

In 1954 she came to London to study at the Royal Academy of Music on an Associated Board and a University travelling scholarship. Whilst at the Royal Academy she distinguished herself by winning many prizes, including the Albanesi medal for piano, the Hecht prize for composition, and the sub-professors' medal for teaching. Further scholarships enabled study periods abroad in Paris and Italy.

In 1959 she was invited to teach at the Royal Academy of Music where she is now on the professorial staff. Her highly successful London debut in 1961 led to concertos with the London Philharmonic and other orchestras, B.B.C. engagements, and recitals for music clubs throughout the country.

Now permanently living in London, Georgina Smith broadcasts frequently for the B.B.C. and makes regular appearances in London and the provinces. On September 22nd this year she was invited to give a recital at the Wigmore Hall, London, to open a new series of recitals there.