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THE ARTS

Premiere for Dünki

THERE are few young composers who attempt such a complicated composition as an opera, and the number of those whose first work gets on the stage is even smaller.

On June 3 and 4, a chamber opera by the young Swiss composer Jean-Jacques Dünki will have its world premiere at the Almeida Theatre in London, thanks to a commission from Swiss conductor and patron Paul Sacher and sponsorship from the Pro Helvetia Foundation.

"Prokrustes, or the Laws of Hospitality" is a 50-minute chamber opera which is based on the Theseus legend. It will form part of the Almeida Festival this year.

Jean-Jacques Dünki, who is well known in Europe as a pianist, studied at the Basle Musikakademie, in West Berlin and in



America. He has done post-graduate work in London with Peter Feuchtwanger and Hans Keller, and won the Schoenberg Piano Competition in 1981.

Coming events

MUSIC

Tamas Vasary is the soloist and conductor in the following concerts with the Northern Sinfonia, with works by Mozart:

Tuesday, May 25, 7.45pm, Town Hall Middlesbrough.

Thursday, May 27, 7.45pm, Newcastle City Hall.

Wednesday, May 26, 7.30pm, St Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle.

Friday, May 28, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Erich Schmid conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in the following concerts:

Tuesday, April 27, 7.30pm, Aberystwyth University Great Hall.

Thursday, April 29, 7.30pm, Birmingham Town Hall (works by Joubert and Beethoven).

Tuesday, May 4, 7.30pm, Birmingham Town Hall (works by Webern, Brahms and Schumann).

Wednesday, May 5, 7.30pm, Wolverhampton Civic Hall (works by Webern, Brahms and Schumann).

Lionel Rogg, organ, plays works by Bach:

Friday, May 21, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Silvio Varviso conducts the

Royal Opera in "Pelléas et Mélisande" by Claude Debussy:

Monday, May 31, 7pm, Thursday, June 3, Wednesday, June 9, Saturday, June 12 and Monday, June 14, 7pm, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

EXHIBITIONS

"The Plan of St. Gall"
April 8 to June 4, Jarrow Hall, Tyne and Wear.

"Paris sans fin": lithographs by Alberto Giacometti:
April 3 to May 1, Malvern Library Art Gallery.

May 17 to June 5, Atkinson Art Gallery, Southport.

"Benjamin Constant - Une vie au service de la liberté":
April 26 to May 15, University of Manchester French Department.

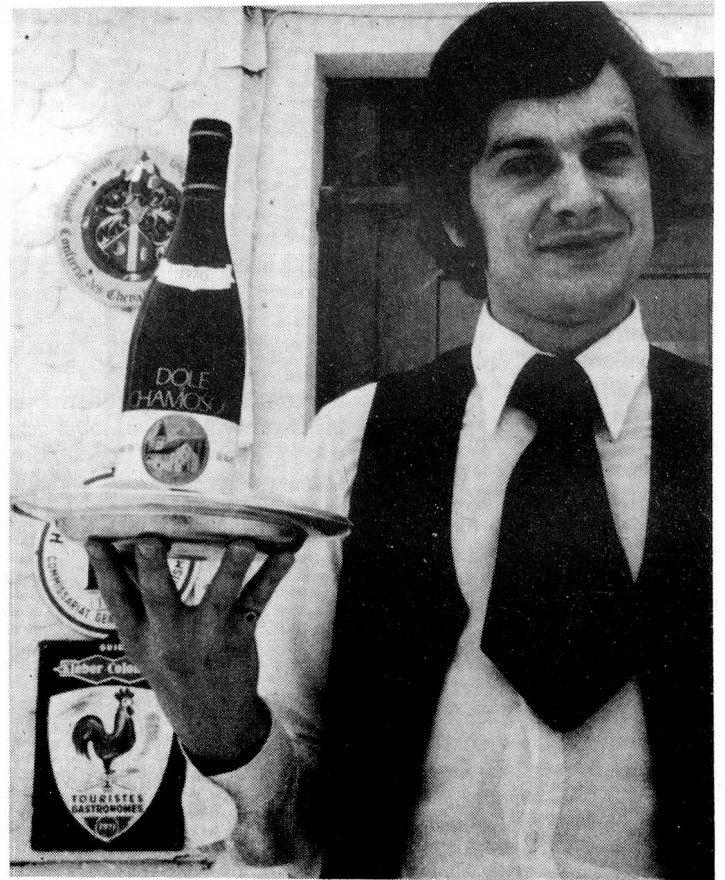
May 24 to June 5, Long Gallery, Birmingham.

THEATRE

"The Portage to San Cristobel of A.H.", adapted for the stage by Christopher Hampton from the novel by George Steiner is shown at the Mermaid Theatre, Blackfriars, EC4.

CINEMA

Claude Goretta's film "A Girl from Lorraine" is shown at the Academy 1, London.



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