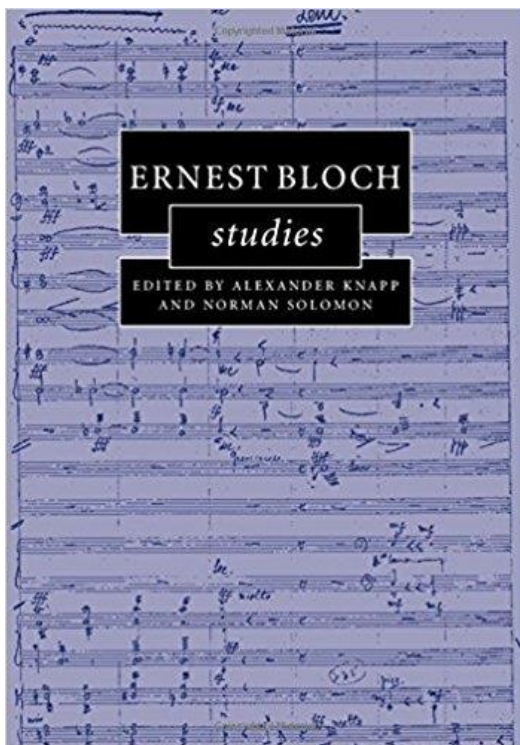


International Ernest Bloch Society News – December 2017



Ernest Bloch Studies

Further to the successful publication of *Ernest Bloch Studies* by Cambridge University Press, and its launch at SOAS in October, hosted jointly by JMI and The Spiro Ark, the International Ernest Bloch Society has once more sprung in to action.

Ernest Bloch, who left his native Switzerland to settle in the United States in 1916 was one of the great twentieth-century composers. He was influenced by a range of genres and styles - Jewish, American and Swiss - and his works reflect his lifelong struggle with his identity. Drawing on first-hand recollections of relatives and others who knew and worked with the composer, this collection is the most comprehensive study to date of Bloch's life, musical achievement and reception. Contributors present the latest research on Bloch's works and compositional practice, including studies of his Avodath Hakodesh (Sacred Service), violin pieces such as Nigun, the symphonic Schelomo, and the opera Macbeth.

Setting the quality and significance of Bloch's output in its historical and cultural contexts, this book provides scholarly analyses as well as a full chronology, list of online resources, catalogue of published and unpublished works, and selected further reading. It is available via Amazon.

The book was inspired by the International Conference that the Society held at Cambridge University in 2007. You can read reports and see pictures from the 2007 International Conference on the International Ernest Bloch Society website here:

<http://ernestblochsociety.org/index.php?id=bloch-jubilee-international-conference>

Bloch in Britain – a talk by Alex Knapp and Norman Solomon, 22 February.

Drs Alexander Knapp, and Norman Solomon, the editors of the book, will be addressing a joint meeting of the Institute of Jewish Studies and the Jewish Historical Society of England on the evening of Thursday 22 February at UCL on the subject of 'Bloch in Britain'.

Musician 'Associates'

Several outstanding musicians, who are already committed to performing and promoting Bloch, have recently joined the Society as 'Associates,'. These include cellists Natalie Clein (right), and Raphael Wallfisch, violist Rivka Golani, as well as Malcolm Singer, recently retired Director of Music at the Yehudi Menuhin School and Benjamin Wolf, composer pianist, teacher and musical director. Judy Obrart will again assist with the Masterclass programme, which is being put in place.



60th anniversary

As 2019 will be the 60th anniversary of Bloch's death, the Society proposes activity at Music Colleges and Academies, as well as coordinating concerts featuring the music of Bloch.

Retiring Officers

The Society has sent letters of appreciation for their tremendous work to retiring officers who have done so much for Bloch and his music during the last 10 years. Chairman **Malcolm Troup** who has stepped down, personally performed Bloch's piano works, and promoted Bloch on his travels in the UK, Europe and South America. He was an esteemed judge in the Ernest Bloch music competition and made sure there were performance opportunities for the winners with JMI or other organisations.

Audrey Ellison, writes, 'As [retiring] Secretary of IEBS I have been delighted at the increased number of Bloch performances and recordings in recent years. In the 2009 Anniversary year, it gave me particular joy to suggest the premier performance of Bloch's only opera, Macbeth, to Charles Peebles, Artistic Director of University College Opera. Charles conducted several performances of Macbeth at the Bloomsbury Theatre in London in March 2009. I shared attending the premier performance with our then President, Sir Charles Mackerras, AC CH CBE, as he was also President of University College Opera at the time'.

When Sir Charles died, it was Audrey who persuaded Steven Isserlis to become President and who invited many internationally known musicians to become Vice Presidents of the Society. You can read about IEBS activities and see all the people associated with it here <http://ernestblochsociety.org/index.php?id=activites>

Retiring Newsletter editor **Stanley Henig**, who lives in Lancaster has found wonderful stories and pictures of Bloch to chronicle in the Societies Newsletter (as did his predecessor Robert Sargant. They can all be seen here: <http://ernestblochsociety.org/index.php?id=newsletters>.

JMI to circulate news

The Society is delighted that JMI will circulate news of it activities in their monthly Newsletters and connect people to the International Ernest Bloch Society website. To contact IEBS please email info@ernestblochsociety.org.

Geraldine Auerbach MBE.

Secretary IEBS
December 2017