

World Première

**Harrison
Birtwistle**



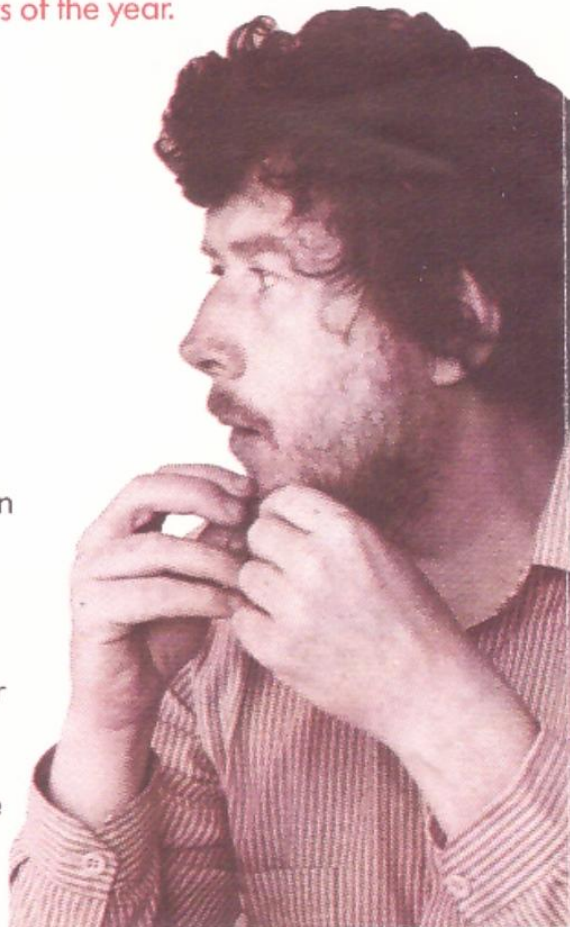
8 performances only
May 21, 28, 30
June 3, 6, 12, 18, 26

The Mask of Orpheus

The world première of Harrison Birtwistle's *The Mask of Orpheus* is the major operatic event of 1986, and continues English National Opera's policy of presenting innovative opera in exciting productions.

With a libretto based on the timeless Orpheus legend and an intriguing multi-layered score that incorporates electronic music specially devised at the IRCAM studios in Paris, this promises to be one of the operatic talking points of the year.

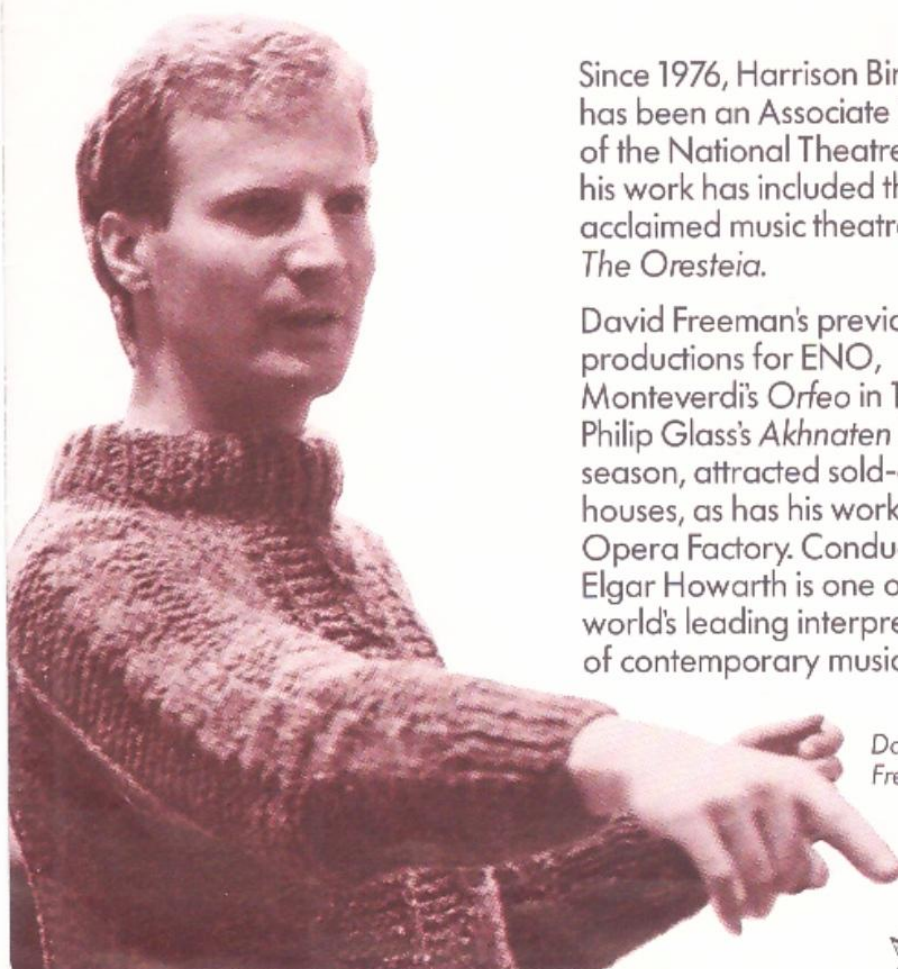
Harrison Birtwistle is a major contemporary composer. His music is performed in musical centres throughout the world, including Paris, New York, London and Berlin. His recent opera *Punch and Judy*, produced by David Freeman, has been hailed as one of the most important pieces of contemporary music; it was acclaimed by the critics and seen by a large audience when televised on Channel 4. In 1986/7, Channel 4 will devote four programmes to Birtwistle and his works, including a major new documentary and the screening of *Yan Tan Tethera*, which is to be performed by the Opera Factory/London Sinfonietta during this year's South Bank Summer Music.



Harrison Birtwistle

Since 1976, Harrison Birtwistle has been an Associate Director of the National Theatre, where his work has included the highly-acclaimed music theatre project *The Oresteia*.

David Freeman's previous productions for ENO, Monteverdi's *Orfeo* in 1981 and Philip Glass's *Akhmaten* last season, attracted sold-out houses, as has his work with Opera Factory. Conductor Elgar Howarth is one of the world's leading interpreters of contemporary music.



David Freeman

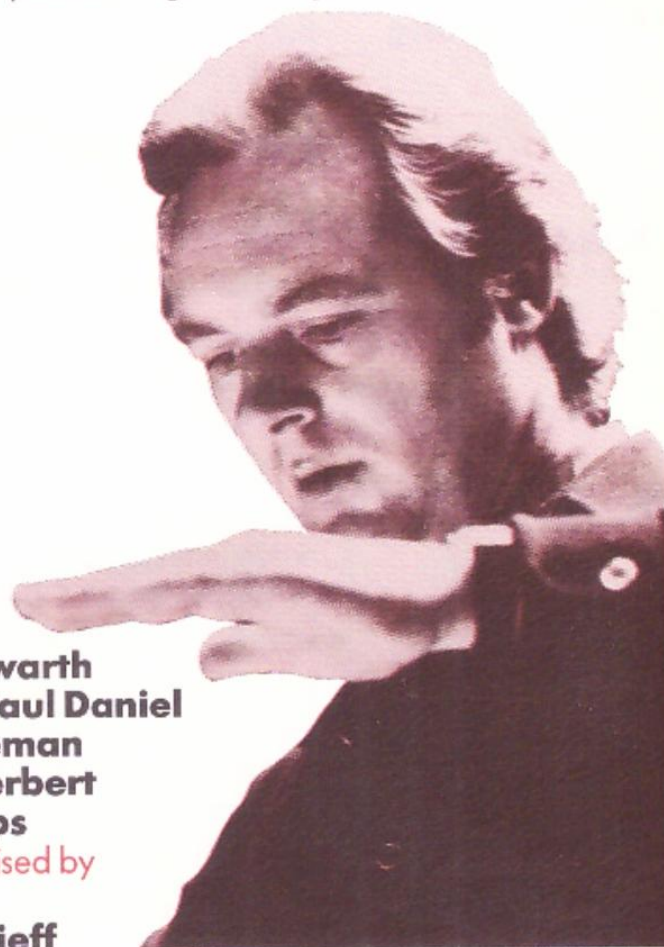
The Mask of Orpheus was commissioned by English National Opera with the help of funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain and the RVW Trust. It was realised in association with IRCAM (Centre

Georges Pompidou, Paris), where the tape was produced with financial assistance from the British Council, Paris. This production is made possible in part by an anonymous and generous gift.

Cast includes

Philip Langridge
Nigel Robson
Jean Rigby
Ethna Robinson
Tom McDonnell
Rodney Macann
Marie Angel
Richard Angas

Conductor **Elgar Howarth**
Associate Conductor **Paul Daniel**
Producer **David Freeman**
Designer **Jocelyn Herbert**
Lighting **Andy Phillips**
Electronic material realised by
Barry Anderson
Libretto **Peter Zinovieff**



Elgar Howarth

Birtwistle Unmasked

There will be a series of extra events around the world première of Harrison Birtwistle's *The Mask of Orpheus*.

To show the opera in the context of Birtwistle's work, there will be open rehearsals, workshops, talks, seminars, performances of Birtwistle's small orchestral works, and of *Down by the Greenwood Side* (at the Royal Academy of Music) during the week of May 21. At the British Museum, there will be a Study Day on May 21 which will examine the Orphic tradition and its role in the development of opera; there will also be a Pre-performance Talk.

An experimental schools project will be run throughout May and June in connection with the work, culminating in showings at ENO's Rehearsal Studios on June 18.

For full details about all these events, please send a stamped addressed envelope to **The Baylis Programme, ENO, London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4ES**, marking your envelope 'Mask of Orpheus'.

Performances

May 21, 28, 30
 June 3, 6, 12, 18, 26 at 7.00
 Performances end at approximately 11.15

Special low prices

Stalls and Dress Circle £10;
 Upper Circle £7.50; Balcony £5 and £4

Booking

Public booking open from **March 17**

Party Booking

Parties of 20 or more may buy Stalls or Dress Circle seats (normally £10.00) for £8.50 for the May 28 and June 18 performances, by post only.
 For information, ring **01-836 0111 ext 318**

Box Office

Open 10am to 8pm Monday to Saturday, excluding Bank Holidays.

01-836 3161 seat reservations
01-240 5258 Credit Card bookings
01-836 7666 recorded booking information

To Book

Complete and return the booking form, with remittance payable to ENO, to **Box Office, ENO, London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4ES**

Mailing List

Join the Mailing List for regular advance information and priority booking for all ENO performances. Full details and application form from the Mailing List Department on **01-836 3908.**

The Mask of Orpheus is performed in English

All reduced price tickets are offered subject to availability and at the management's discretion

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone/Day: _____

Eve: _____

MASK OF ORPHEUS

Date 1st choice	Alternative	Part of theatre	Price	Total	Office use

*I enclose cheque/postal order, payable to ENO, for £ and a stamped addressed envelope

*Please charge my Access/American Express/Visa/Diner's Club card no.

Signature _____

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