

EDINBURGH: organ concerto

By CONRAD WILSON

EDINBURGH University's new German chamber organ, which has already proved its value in solo recitals, was heard last night in conjunction with orchestral tone in a selection of Handel and Bach concertos. Peter Williams was the organist, perched high above the platform but connected by TV circuit to the small, spirited group of strings led by Miles Baster below.

Two Handel organ concertos—both from Op 7 and both in B flat major—formed the programme. The first was an Albert Hall favourite in the days when Thalben-Ball thundered out its rollicking closing bourree. This time it moved more lightly and fleetly, and with so little mush in the bass that the performance seemed almost guilty of indecent exposure. Yet the effect was not dryly musicological. The notes danced and sang.

Nor did the Hallelujah concerto at the end of the programme sound merely mechanical. Again it was a slimline performance, but one which lived and breathed, as the soloist's shaping of the Messiah theme in the first movement demonstrated.

Bach's F minor concerto, on the other hand, sounded more ponderous on the organ than in its familiar harpsichord version, and Corelli's F major violin sonata was transformed into an organ sonata with violin decorations (touched in by Miles Baster who had joined Peter Williams in the organ loft, but seemed uneasy up there). A crisp, stirring account of Handel's D minor concerto grosso, Op 6, No. 10, completed the programme.

EDINBURGH University's new chamber organ will be heard during an orchestral concert at the Reid Concert Hall on Thursday when Peter Williams plays organ concertos by Handel and Bach with a string ensemble directed by Miles Baster.

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY CONCERTS 1978-79

STRING ENSEMBLE
directed by MILES BASTER violin

PETER WILLIAMS *organ*

Reid Concert Hall, Thursday 1 February 1979

Concerts

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY CONCERTS

Thursday, 1st February,
7.50 p.m.

String Ensemble

directed by MILES BASTER.

PETER WILLIAMS, organ.

Programme includes organ
concertos by Bach and
Handel.

REID CONCERT HALL

Admission free.

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HANDEL 1685-1759
Organ Concerto in B flat, Op. VII No. 1
Andante
Organo ad libitum
Largo
Bourrée

A. CORELLI 1653-1713
Violin Sonata in F major, Op. V No. 10
Preludio
Allemanda
Sarabanda
Gavotta
Giga

J. S. BACH 1685-1750
Organ Concerto in F minor BWV 1056
(Allegro)
Largo
Presto

INTERVAL

HANDEL
Concerto Grosso in D minor, Op. VI No. 10
Overture (prelude and fugue)
Air (largo)
Allegro
Allegro
Allegro moderato

HANDEL
Organ Concerto in B flat, Op. VII No. 3
Allegro
Organo ad libitum
Spiritoso
Menuet

PETER MARKHAM *violin*
PATRICIA DESSON *violin*
WILSON HAINEY *violin*
PENNY HARPER *violin*
DAVID HUME *violin*
MICHAEL BEESTON *viola*
JANET WARRACK *viola*
CHRISTOPHER GOUGH *violoncello*
GEORGE KENNAWAY *violoncello*
BOYD POMEROY *double bass*
DAVID EVANS *oboe*
MARGOT CRUFT *oboe*
SUSAN LESTER-CRIBB *bassoon*
ANDREW DEAN *harpsichord*

Next concert: Thursday 8 February

REID MEMORIAL CONCERT
Directed by MICHAEL TILMOUTH

A programme of musical curiosities including the piano trio in A attributed to Brahms, the piano trio K 442 by Mozart, a piano sonata by Mozart/Grieg and music by General Reid.

15 pence