

Scottish storms force cancellations

DAVID KETTLE

The storm-force winds that tore across Scotland and northern England on 8 December forced the cancellation of several music performances throughout Scotland's central belt.

All Glasgow Life venues – comprising the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, City Halls and Old Fruitmarket – were closed throughout the afternoon and evening, forcing cancellations of concerts by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

The RSNO's appropriately titled Russian Winter performance was called off during

the afternoon. 'We made the decision at about 2pm,' said RSNO communications manager Daniel Pollitt. 'We'd managed to warn all the orchestra members in good time beforehand, though, so they didn't have to travel needlessly. But since the whole venue was closed, we didn't have any choice.' But although the RSNO concert's second outing went ahead as planned in Edinburgh on 9 December, there was no such repeat possibility for the BBCSSO's one-off performance of Bartók's *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*, which was also cancelled after its City Halls venue was closed.

Further to the east, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra was also forced to abandon its 8 December concert in the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh. 'The SCO made the decision to cancel the concert on the grounds of the safety of our audience, performers and staff, in the light of advice issued to avoid travel in the area between 2pm and 9pm,'

said SCO's marketing and communications manager, Zoë Westwood. The concert was to have included only the second performance of the new violin concerto by Hafliði Hallgrímsson, which was successfully premiered with soloist Jennifer Pike in St Andrews the previous evening and was followed by another performance in Glasgow on 9 December.

The Scottish Ensemble's concert in Inverness's Eden Court went ahead as planned, however. 'The players went up by train instead of by road, as we'd heard lots of roads had been closed,' said administrator Jenny Clark. 'They all made it safely, and attendance was good – we're grateful to the audience who still turned out to see us. We battled through the snow last year, so we were determined not to let the wind stop us.'

Performances in the north of England went ahead as planned, with the Sage Gateshead reporting high winds but no disruption to its activities.

Huddersfield new home for music library

FRANCESCA TREADAWAY

The University of Huddersfield is to provide a permanent home for the collection of 20th- and 21st-century scores and recordings held until now by Sound and Music.

The collection, which is currently being unpacked and shelved at the university's music library, will be renamed the British Music Collection and developed by the university and Sound and Music in partnership. The resource includes more than 30,000 scores and several thousand recordings representing some 2,500 composers, and will be open to the public at the university from January 2012.

It is intended not as an archive of unique materials or autograph scores, but 'as a representative survey in a single, publicly accessible place'. Tippett, Britten, Birtwistle, MacMillan and Maxwell Davies are among many who feature alongside up-and-coming composers.

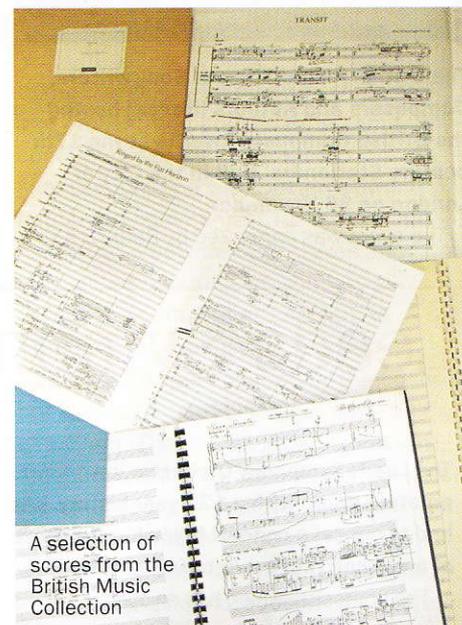
The catalogue is available to view online at Sound and Music's website and once the

collection is fully in place members of the public will be able to book online to arrange a viewing in person.

Guy Morley, interim managing director of Sound and Music, said: 'The British Music Collection is an important resource for anyone interested in 20th- and 21st-century music in the UK. It's a place for performers to find new repertoire and for academics, composers, students and anyone interested to discover the remarkably rich musical heritage of this country.'

'We are delighted to have formed a partnership with the University of Huddersfield which will see the collection not only become accessible and located at the heart of the UK's contemporary music scene but also be a living and breathing resource to be jointly developed in the years to come.'

Professor Monty Adkins of the University of Huddersfield added: 'The collaboration exemplifies the University of Huddersfield's ethos to provide access to education and



A selection of scores from the British Music Collection

resources to the widest possible community. We have the ambition to expand this work by supplementing it with composer videos and interviews as well as developing further online resources. Sound and Music and the University of Huddersfield aspire to provide the most comprehensive "living" archive of British Music for the 21st century.'

www.soundandmusic.org
www.hud.ac.uk/music