

BO LINDE

David C F Wright DMus

It is always sad when a composer dies young. It even sadder when that young composer dies by his own hand. Such is the case of the Swedish composer Bo Linde who died at the age of 37.

Anders Bo Leif Linde was born in Gavle on 1 January 1933. He studied theory with Ingmar Bengtsson at the Stockholm Academy from 1958. He studied piano with Olof Wibergh and composition with Lars-Erik Larsson.

Larsson lived from 1908 to 1986 and wrote ten Concertinos for solo instruments and orchestra, three symphonies and three string quartets. He had the privilege to study with Berg and was the first Swedish composer to write a work in the serial technique.

In 1953, Linde studied in Vienna. Later, he was to teach piano at Stockholm and Gavle. He was also a prolific writer with, perhaps, over 3000 articles to his name.

He was an accomplished pianist but his first love was the organ for which instrument he wrote very little. He wrote a children's opera and his songs are exquisite with excellent piano accompaniments.

He was a reliable correspondent and enjoyed talking to people. His phone bills were very high!

There is a lot of nonsense written about music and composers. Some has said that Linde's music is like Walton, Barber, Britten and Prokofiev. Many have said that he has an affinity with Britten and that his music sounds like Britten! Linde was very upset at this ridiculous comment and became depressed, although he did admire some of Britten's work and positively hated some some of it. If that had been said about my music being like the music of Britten I would have been equally upset and insulted.

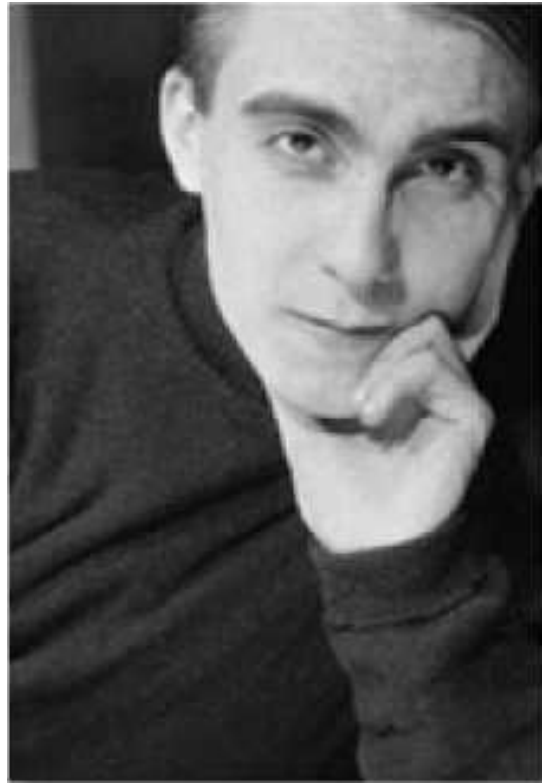
The comparisons that people make are odious.

His Violin Concerto was premiered by its dedicate Josef Grunfard. It is a splendid work in two movements, the first including a cadenza. It is a bright and vigorous work containing lyric themes. I also admire it because it is robust. The orchestration is top drawer. To suggest it is like Britten is like saying there are mice on Saturn each having eleven legs!

The Cello Concerto was written for Guido Vecchi, the principal cellist with the Goteborg Symphony Orchestra and was probably Linde's favourite work among his own compositions. He was very fond of the cello. The character of the cello is captured wonderfully and the music has a warmth albeit the work is episodic. It still has a lot to admire. The writing for the soloist is technically demanding and often quite stunning. The work does not show any sign of the influence of Britten.

I am sorry to labour the point but I feel it is necessary. Comparisons can be odious. Victoria has been called God's composer and Elly Ameling the Dutch Nightingale!

But to return to Bo Linde.



Linde married Britt-Marie and they had a son, Ulf, born in Stockholm in September 1960.

He wrote a lot of music in his short life and a list of some his works follows:

Symphony no 1 (Sinfonia fantasia) Op 1
Ten Naive Songs
Violin Concerto Op 18
Cello Concerto Op 29
Piano Concerto no 1
Piano Concerto no 2
String Quartet Op 9
A Merry Overture
Pezzo Concertante for bass clarinet and orchestra Op 41
Suite: Boulogne
Symphony no 2 Op 23
Sonatina for cello and piano
Old-Fashioned Suite for string orchestra
Cantabile for cello and piano
String Trio
Trumpet Piece
Pensi sopra una cantabile vecchi for orchestra
Piano Trio no 2
Miniature Suite for string orchestra
Prelude and Finale for string orchestra
Sonata for violin and piano
Symphony no 3
Many songs

Had he not died so young, what other fine works would he have written? More works with cogent argument no doubt.

He died on 2 October 1970 the same year as the brilliant German composer Bernd Alois Zimmerman also committed suicide.

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