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E D I T O R I A L

This issue contains articles on jazz by two music critics, one himself a former jazzman. Kenneth Donnett writes the first of two articles on Louis Armstrong, who died earlier this year, and Don Locke discusses the state of modern jazz and its recent historical background. The next issue will include the second of Kenneth Donnett's articles and will also place considerable emphasis on pop music - with articles by David Mabey (writer and journalist) and Meirion Bowen (music critic of The Guardian).

Other plans for the next issue include a discussion of Schoenberg's opera "Moses and Aaron" by John Drummond - the second in our series of articles on this composer - a report from the Athens Festival of 20th century music by David Jones and an article on the music of Peter Maxwell Davies by the editor.

It is also hoped to compile a short concert calendar for future issues of musical events involving recent works around the Birmingham area. To help us to give a reasonably comprehensive list it would help if concert promoters would write in and tell us of their plans well in advance. Obviously it is not possible to include all events (especially all pop and jazz programmes) but those interested in advertising their concerts etc. are invited to do so in this publication - free of charge. Anyone wishing to advertise more fully should contact me at the address given below.

I should like to thank David Woodgates for his new cover design for this issue and Douglas Leadbitter and Philip Lane who helped with typing. In particular I should like to thank Hilary Bracefield who has taken over much of the work formerly done by the co-founder of the magazine, Chris Villars, who has now left Birmingham. Any further offers of assistance, especially with typing and distribution, would be most welcome. Our thanks also go to Birmingham University Musical Society for their financial assistance and sponsorship.

All contributions for Contact 4 should be sent to me not later than 29th January at the following address:- Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TU.

KEITH POTTER