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978-0-521-03586-6 - The BBC and Ultra-Modern Music, 1922-1936: Shaping a Nation's Tastes

Jennifer Doctor

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The BBC and Ultra-Modern Music, 1922–1936

This book examines the BBC's campaign to raise cultural awareness of British mass audiences in the early days of radio. As a specific case, it focuses on policies and plans behind transmissions of music by composers associated with Arnold Schoenberg's circle between 1922, when the BBC was founded, and spring 1936, when Edward Clark, a former Schoenberg pupil and central figure in BBC music, resigned from the Corporation. This reception study traces and analyses the BBC's attempts to manipulate critical and public responses to this repertory. The book investigates three interrelated aspects of early BBC history. Policy decisions relating to contemporary music transmissions are examined to determine why precious broadcast time was devoted to this repertory. Early personnel structures are reconstructed to investigate the responsibilities, attitudes and interests of those who influenced music broadcasting. Finally, broadcasts of Second Viennese School works are examined in detail.

Jennifer Doctor's extensive research in the BBC Written Archives has not only led to this book, but also contributed significantly to Humphrey Carpenter's *The Envy of the World: Fifty Years of the BBC Third Programme and Radio 3* (London, 1996). She was Senior Editor for 20th-Century Composers on *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (2nd ed., forthcoming), and is currently Librarian at the The Britten–Pears Library.

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Jennifer Doctor

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of tables</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xii

Introduction	1
--------------	---

PART I THE EMERGENCE OF BBC MUSIC PROGRAMMES

1	The British music industry and the BBC between the wars	13
	The changing face of the music industry	15
	A brief introduction to BBC history, 1922–1936	17
2	BBC personnel, policies and programmes in the 1920s	22
	The controlling hierarchy	22
	The central policies	25
	The programmes	39

PART II THE PITT YEARS, 1922–1929

3	The foundations of music programming, 1922–1926	59
	Music Department personnel	59
	The music programmes	62
	Scholes's contemporary music reviews	73
	Contemporary music broadcasts	77
4	The music programmes take shape, 1926–1927	80
	The music programmes	82
	Introducing listeners to the standard repertory canon	84
	The new focus on contemporary music	86
5	The first wave of Second Viennese School broadcasts, 1927–1928	96
	Educating listeners about art music	99
	Contemporary music programming	103
	The first British performance of Schoenberg's <i>Gurrelieder</i>	111
	The emergence of the ultra-modern 'problem'	118
6	Refining the music programmes, 1928–1929	126
	Personnel shifts	126
	The music programmes: series planning	130
	Contemporary music programming	132

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03586-6 - The BBC and Ultra-Modern Music, 1922-1936: Shaping a Nation's Tastes

Jennifer Doctor

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

Contents

- 7 Pitt's final season, 1929–1930 153
 The music programmes 154
 Contemporary music programming 156
 Pitt's legacy 181

PART III THE EARLY BOULT YEARS, 1930–1936

- 8 Boulton's initial seasons, 1930–1931, 1931–1932 187
 The BBC of the 1930s 187
 Personnel shifts 189
 Contemporary music programming, 1930–1931 194
 The ISCM Festival, July 1931 212
 The 1931 Promenade Concerts 217
 Contemporary music programming, 1931–1932 220
- 9 Transition to the new régime, 1932–1933, 1933–1934 230
 Personnel shifts and policy clashes 230
 Contemporary music programming 246
 The first British performance of Berg's *Wozzeck* 268
- 10 Policies and politics, 1934–1935, 1935–1936 281
 Personnel shifts 281
 The Music Programme Advisory Panel 288
 Music programming policy 292
 The Ullswater Committee, evidence and recommendations 300
 Contemporary music programming 306
- 11 Clark's legacy 329
 Conclusion 332

Appendices

- A British performances of Second Viennese School works, January 1912–May 1936 337
- B BBC Concerts of Contemporary Music, 1926–1936 366
- C Biographical summaries 390

Notes 411*Selected bibliography* 463*Index* 487

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03586-6 - The BBC and Ultra-Modern Music, 1922-1936: Shaping a Nation's Tastes

Jennifer Doctor

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Tables

- 1.1 Relationship between the number of BBC licences sold annually, the number of British households and the number of BBC staff, December 1926 – December 1936 20
- 2.1 BBC programme analyses for 1925, 1927 and 1929 40
- 2.2 Analysis of alternative programmes, December 1928–July 1929 42
- 2.3 Schedule of London programmes for a typical evening in October 1923 43
- 2.4 Schedule of London programmes for a typical evening in October 1926 43
- 2.5 Schedule of London programmes for a typical evening in January 1927 44
- 2.6 Projected programme outline considered by the Programme Board in February 1925 45
- 2.7 Projected programme outline considered by the Programme Board in October 1926 46
- 2.8 London Station (2LO) programming for a typical week, 18–24 January 1925 50
- 2.9 Programming for a typical week, 2–8 October 1927 52
- 4.1 Examples of individually planned concerts and recitals broadcast between 1926 and 1929 83
- 7.1 Works by Second Viennese School composers and their associates, performed in BBC concerts and broadcasts between 1927 and spring 1930 183
- 8.1 Contemporary music programmes of the ISCM Festival, Oxford and London, July 1931 216
- 11.1 Works by Second Viennese School composers and their associates, performed in BBC concerts and broadcasts between autumn 1930 and spring 1936 335

Tables in Appendix B: BBC Concerts of Contemporary Music, 1926–1936

- B.1 The BBC spring series of chamber music concerts, April–June 1926 366

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03586-6 - The BBC and Ultra-Modern Music, 1922-1936: Shaping a Nation's Tastes

Jennifer Doctor

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

List of tables

- B.2 The first season of BBC Concerts of Contemporary Music,
1926–7 369
- B.3 The second season of BBC Concerts of Contemporary Music,
1927–8 370
- B.4 The third season of BBC Concerts of Contemporary Music,
1928–9 372
- B.5 The fourth season of BBC Concerts of Contemporary Music,
1929–30 375
- B.6 The fifth season of BBC Concerts of Contemporary Music,
January to June 1931 378
- B.7 The sixth season of BBC Concerts of Contemporary Music,
1931–2 380
- B.8 The seventh season of BBC Concerts of Contemporary Music,
1932–3 382
- B.9 The eighth season of BBC Concerts of Contemporary Music,
1933–4 384
- B.10 The ninth season of BBC Concerts of Contemporary Music,
1934–5 386
- B.11 The tenth season of BBC Concerts of Contemporary Music,
1935–6 388

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-03586-6 - The BBC and Ultra-Modern Music, 1922-1936: Shaping a Nation's Tastes

Jennifer Doctor

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Jennifer Doctor

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Abbreviations

BBC	British Broadcasting Company (1922–6) or British Broadcasting Corporation (from 1927)
BBC WAC	BBC Written Archives Centre
ISCM	International Society for Contemporary Music
LCMC	London Contemporary Music Centre
MT	<i>The Musical Times</i>
RCM	Royal College of Music
RT	<i>Radio Times</i>
UE	Universal Edition