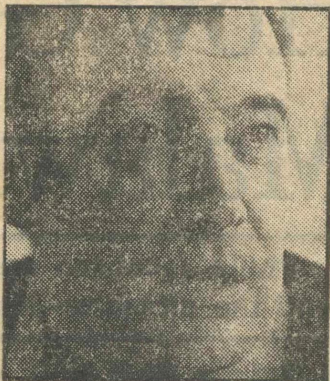


1975-76 Season
MAS, EGGINGTON

Clive Barda



Handley: successor to Kempe?

The man for the BBC baton

IN HIS tribute to Rudolf Kempe, Desmond Shawe-Taylor poses the question: Who'll take up the baton as conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra (Leader page, last week)? For me there can be only one answer—Vernon Handley.

I have heard Handley conduct some 200 concerts and have reviewed most of them. I was pleased when the Composers' Guild of Great Britain named him as Conductor of the Year 1973. He is a supreme protagonist among our own composers, both past and present; and remember that it is the British Broadcasting Corporation Symphony Orchestra which will have to appoint a successor to Kempe.

Someone with a command of 20th century British music must be a strong candidate. Handley has a repertoire as embracing as that of any other conductor. I have never failed to be absorbed by a Handley concert and I have come to expect readings of inspiration and integrity.

Handley has conducted every major British orchestra and been entrusted with such important premieres as the Bliss Variations for Orchestra with the LSO. His recordings are growing monthly. Who'll take up the baton of the BBC SO? Is there really anyone else?

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