

## ACCUSED OF PLAGIARISM

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Music Web International has, or had, a bulletin board in which people could respond to articles and reviews on that site. As with many other sites, some of the comments were abusive and grossly offensive and I was one of many subjected to offensive abuse.

Someone commented on my article about Schubert and said that he hoped I would also get syphilis, died in agony and burn in hell.

These sites should not have feedback comments or, if they do, not to have offensive comments published.

I realise that some people have nothing better to do that publish vitriol and abuse on the internet.

Someone else called me potty mouth, whatever that means, in objecting to my article on Chopin. All that I wrote can be evidenced and while I accept that people like Chopin that does not mean that I have to write an article with only the positive things about him and ignore the many negative things in his life. A biography has to be balanced.

Another accused me of plagiarism in this article. This is unfair, but it remains that the facts in the public domain are not subject to copyright. If I write that Mozart was born in 1756 in Salzburg, I am not guilty of copyright because Stanley Sadie wrote this before I did. If Grove says the same things as I do that does not mean I am guilty of plagiarism. If the facts about Chopin are known, then I will record them as well as other writers.

I have been accused on Music Web of writing an article about Dittersdorf which, it is alleged, I had copied from Grove. I do not have Grove nor have I used it. If the facts about his life accord with what I have written then that is because the facts are well-known.

I was subject to malignant comments for my article about Barbirolli. What I wrote is accurate and supported by many who knew Barbirolli and I have evidenced much of this.

What I wrote about Elgar produced a torrent of the most foul abuse. Again, all that I wrote was accurate including letters from Elgar to my great uncle and from women who were reviled by him. If people like Elgar that is up to them and it is their choice but they have no right to resort to abuse because of concrete evidence that shows Elgar up as a composer, a musician or man.

Rob Barnett of Music Web objected to my allegedly taking swipes at composers. Let us assume that he was right. Yet he lambastes Liszt, Bruno Maderna and others and is cruel in what he writes. He can be objectionable about composers, yet I could not tell the truth about some composers.

Barnet has written some of the most inane things imaginable such as:

What key is Webern's Symphony in?

Does the first movement of Arnold Cooke's Symphony no 1 last 11 minutes and 11 seconds or 11 minutes and 10 seconds?

Dvorak was obviously influenced by Britten!

Liszt did not understand the piano!

Josef Holbrooke's Piano Concerto is the finest piano concerto ever written!

But to return to plagiarism. My article on Denis Apivor was stolen by some one in Canada who altered two words and had it published under his name and received a financial reward.

In the early 1960s, I wrote articles about many of the Bach family. A few years later Grove on Bach appeared and the articles were my work. Very few alterations were made.

Long before the internet appeared and therefore before Wikipedia which began in January 2001, I had written and published essays about composers. Some of the Wikipedia versions of these composers were clearly taken from my articles.

My article on Dvorak was published in the USA in the early sixties and yet some books came out later in which authors took credit for what I had written and published earlier. That is plagiarism.

I wrote about several women composers in the mid 1960s. What I wrote has since appeared elsewhere under other authors names

One could write an essay about a composer and the most of it be the same as previous writings about this composer because all the facts remain the same. What may make the second essay different is the value judgments on the music.

We cannot stop this abuse because human nature is seriously flawed and people revel in being thieves of other peoples work and writing offensive and disgusting remarks.

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