

SMH Jan 4 - 10 The Guide

Classically Australian

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INTERNATIONAL distribution has always been the weak (in most cases, non-existent) element in the career of locally produced recordings.

The ABC label is working hard to secure regular access to overseas markets and may have positive news on this before long. Belinda Webster managed to obtain strategic international reviews and some British outlets for her new Tall Poppies label during a 1992 study tour.

One of the encouraging developments of 1992 was an increase in the number of recordings accommodating Australian music or, more often, Australian musicians which were produced by foreign or multinational

labels, particularly where the performers were wholly or partly based in Australia.

The enterprising Dutch label Etcetera, for example, took up tapes produced by Ralph Lane's ABC Live Music team from the first two of Roger Woodward's Sydney Spring Festivals for a disc of music by the German composer Rolf Gehlhaar (KTC 1127).

Woodward's solo recital for Etcetera of late works by the Russian composer-mystic Alexander Skryabin (KTC 1126) has serious claims to be one of the six finest solo piano recitals released anywhere in 1992. The playing is masterly and the music itself powerfully fascinating.

No less distinguished is Woodward's all-Chopin recital produced here by Warner (Warner 45099031-2), with honourable mention for this pianist's attractive pops anthology for the same label (Warner 903177472-2).

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