

The Clarinet Concerto has been written on this

The late great Clarinet virtuoso Yona Ettinger invited me to write for him a concerto. Sitting together in a plane ~~for~~ flying from London to Tel Aviv we discussed in details the project. ~~On the one hand~~ The composition should ~~provide~~ <sup>give</sup> ample opportunities to the clarinet player to show his craftsmanship as a virtuoso, but never on the expense of the musical content. The composer should not be afraid ~~to~~ of demanding unusual techniques in order to enlarge <sup>with</sup> the possibilities of clarinet sound-production. The ~~orchestra's~~ function should not be just an accompaniment for the soloist, but <sup>on the contrary</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>opposite</sup> should fulfil the task of a partner in chamber music in which the soloist and the orchestra develop a dialog about the thematic material. Those were the main points we agreed to. Yona still could see the finished score of the work and even a date for the first performed was fixed. But nature

took his course. In remembrance to Tove's great  
merit and to Tova the noble human being  
we shall listen this evening to one of his last  
artistic initiatives.

# JOSEF TAL

## Clarinet Concerto

The great clarinet virtuoso, the late Jona Ettliger (died June 1981) invited Josef Tal to compose for him a Concerto. Sitting together in a plane flying from London to Tel-Aviv they discussed the project in detail:

"The composition should give ample opportunity to the clarinet player to show his craftsmanship as a virtuoso, but never at the expense of the musical content", says Josef Tal. "The composer should not be afraid of demanding unusual techniques in order to enrich possibilities of clarinet sound-production. The orchestra should not be just an accompaniment to the solo part, but, on the contrary, should fulfill the task of a partner in chamber music, in which the soloist and the orchestra develop a dialogue about the thematic material. Those were the main points we agreed upon. Jona was still able to see the finished score of the work and a date for the première performance had been set. But nature took its course. In remembrance of Jona's great musicianship and for Jona, the noble human being, we shall listen to one of his last artistic initiatives."