

BIRMINGHAM POST 30TH NOVEMBER 1971

Birmingham Composer

Sir, - I have an album of eight 78 rpm gramophone records which are 40 years old. They consist of seven compositions by Albert W Ketelbey. I had not played them for some years, but on hearing them again they came up fresh as the day I first heard them.

Ketelbey was born in Birmingham and studied at the Midland Institute. He composed a piano sonata and performed it at the age of 12 in Worcester Town Hall in the presence of Sir Edward Elgar.

It occurred to me that few Brummies who have whistled such old favourites as "In a Monastery Garden", "Sanctuary of the Heart" and "Bells Across the Meadow" have realised that the composer was a townsman of theirs. Perhaps some orchestra in the city might be sentimental enough to devote an evening to the works of so truly an illustrious son of Britain's second city.

W. ONN.
Shipston-on-Stour.