

GUILDFORD FESTIVAL CONCERT



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Wednesday, 4 July 1990 7.30 p.m.

BRITTEN: REJOICE IN THE LAMB

BERNSTEIN: CHICHESTER PSALMS

Music for Harp and Organ

GUILDFORD PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

HARP: CARYL THOMAS

ORGAN: DAVID SWINSON

CONDUCTOR: NEVILLE CREED

Concert sponsored by National Westminster Bank,
Gordon Hakim Chartered Accountants, Smith Associates and
Regency and West of England Building Society



Programme: £6.00., (£3.00 concessions)

By kind permission of the Vicar of Holy Trinity Church,
The Reverend Doctor Kenneth Stevenson.

*The Guildford Philharmonic Choir wishes to
acknowledge with grateful thanks sponsorship received
from National Westminster Bank, Gordon Hakim
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and West of England Building Society.*

P R O G R A M M E

REJOICE IN THE LAMB OP 30

Benjamin Britten (1913 - 1976)

Treble: JONATHAN BEVAN

Alto: NEIL WORSEY

Tenor: NICHOLAS DYKES

Bass: NIGEL EDWARDS

(The soloists are all members of Guildford Cathedral Choir)

The text for this Cantata is taken from a poem entitled 'Jubilate Agno' by Christopher Smart - an eighteenth century poet. Smart was deeply religious, but suffered from mental illness and wrote this while in an asylum. His idiosyncratic idiom is sometimes hard to fathom but there are flashes of genius which foreshadow William Blake.

The work was written in 1943 for Walter Hussey of St. Matthew's Church, Northampton. Its main theme is the worship of God by all created beings and things, each in its own way. There are ten short sections. At the opening, the choir intones "Rejoice in God, O ye Tongues" and then, in a lively section, Old Testament figures are linked with various animals in the praise of God. After a quiet but intense 'Hallelujah' the treble soloist introduces the cat Jeoffry as an example of God's work, while the alto soloist refers to his enemy, the mouse. In the next section the tenor soloist presents flowers as "the poetry of Christ" and this leads to Smart's confession of his sins and hope for deliverance. The bass soloist then directs us towards 'M for Music' and the choir sings of music's praise of God. The 'Hallelujah' returns to end the work.

MUSIC FOR HARP Caryl Thomas

'VARIATIONS ON A THEME

BY MOZART'

Mikhail Glinka (1804 - 1857)

Glinka lived in St Petersburg where he fell in love with a young harpist to whom he dedicated these variations. He frequently used variation technique in his compositions and the 'theme' in this case is taken from an aria in 'Don Giovanni'.

'LA SOURCE'

Alphonse Hasselmans (1845 - 1912)

Hasselmans is most famous for his part in the harp revival at the turn of the century. He taught many famous harpists at the Paris Conservatoire and Caryl Thomas is a pupil of one of these. He wrote mainly 'salon' music and 'La Source' is one of his most popular items.

'MANDOLINE'

Elias Parish Alvers (1808 - 1849)

Berlioz referred to Parish Alvers as 'the Liszt of the harp' as he was such a virtuoso. Most of his music matches this reputation and is of great difficulty. He was born in Devon and travelled widely, eventually settling in Vienna where he first heard a mandolin and was inspired to write this piece.

I N T E R V A L

MUSIC FOR ORGAN David Swinson 'SCHERZO' FROM SYMPHONY NO. 5

Louis Vierne (1870 - 1937)

Vierne took Widor as his example in writing six symphonies for organ based on the romantic symphonic ideal. The fifth symphony is his most expansive with rigorous thematic development in the outer movements. The central 'Scherzo' provides the necessary light relief, but this is somewhat tinged by Vierne's use of chromatic harmony.

'FETES'

Jean Langlais (b.1907)

Alongside Messiaen, Langlais is the foremost living composer of French organ music. However, unlike his rather individualistic contemporary, he follows more closely the tradition of Franck and Vierne composing in an almost improvisatory fashion. 'Fetes' is an occasional virtuoso piece combining great rhythmic drive with modal harmony and an overwhelming sense of bravura.

'CHICHESTER PSALMS'

Leonard Bernstein (b. 1918)

Maestoso ma energico:

Psalm 108, verse 2, Psalm 100

Andante con moto, ma tranquillo:

Psalm 23, Psalm 2 verses 1-4

Prelude - Peacefully flowing:

Psalm 131, Psalm 133 verse 1

Alto: NEIL WORSEY
Harp: CARYL THOMAS
Percussion: SIMON CARRINGTON
Organ: DAVID SWINSON

Like 'Rejoice in the Lamb', the 'Chichester Psalms' was commissioned by Walter Hussey. It was written for the 1965 Southern Three Choirs Festival when Hussey was Dean of Chichester Cathedral. The text is sung in Hebrew, like the composer's "Kaddish" Symphony. Three complete psalms have been chosen which are combined with verses from three others. The first movement opens with a forcefully declaimed chorale which gives way to an exuberant setting of Psalm 100 - "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord". In the middle movement a simple melody for alto unfolds to the words of Psalm 23 which is interrupted by a forceful setting of Psalm 2 "Why do the nations rage". The movement ends with a juxtaposition of the two elements. After a Prelude, the third movement continues with a peaceful setting of Psalm 131. At the end, the chorale returns, bringing the 'Chichester Psalms' to a tranquil conclusion.

GUILD F O R D P H I L H A R M O N I C C H O I R

The Guildford Philharmonic Choir was formed by Guildford Borough Council in order to perform the major choral repertoire with the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra. The choir made its first recording in 1973 of Finzi's 'Intimations of Immortality' with the Guildford Philharmonic and in 1979 recorded Hadley's 'The Trees so High' with the Philharmonia Orchestra, both recordings being conducted by Vernon Handley. The choir regularly performs with leading British conductors including Sir Charles Groves and Sir David Willcocks. In 1990, the choir will visit Southern Germany to perform Handel's 'Messiah' with the Freiburg Bach Choir and Orchestra.

*Details about joining the choir may be obtained from Kathy Atkins, Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra, The Lodge, Allen House Grounds, Chertsey Street, Guildford, Surrey.
Tel: Guildford (0483) 444666*

NEVILLE CREED

Conductor

Neville Creed began his conducting career whilst a choral scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge, and then became Director of Choral Music at Tiffin School, Kingston-upon-Thames. In 1986 he was awarded a scholarship to study conducting at the Guildhall School of Music where he won the Ricordi Conducting Prize.

Neville Creed became Chorus Master of the Guildford Philharmonic Choir and the Bournemouth Symphony Chorus in 1987. In 1988 he won the second prize in the first International Choral Conducting Competition in Italy. During the next few months he will be conducting in Switzerland and Denmark as well as giving concerts with the Royal Philharmonic 'Pops' Orchestra and the RPO in the Exeter Festival.

CARYL THOMAS

Harp

Caryl Thomas graduated from the Welsh College of Music and Drama and New York University. She has been awarded many scholarships and prizes including a major prize at the International Harp Contest in Jerusalem. She has performed to critical acclaim throughout Europe, the United States, Russia and Japan, and has appeared as concerto soloist with the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, the London Mozart Players, the Bournemouth Sinfonietta and the Mozarteum of Salzburg. As well as broadcasting regularly on radio and television, she has recorded the Mozart Flute and Harp Concerto with the London Philharmonic and has recently completed a solo disc entitled "Claire de lune" and a selection of chamber works with the Prometheus Ensemble called "French Impressions".

DAVID SWINSON**Organ**

After beginning his musical career as a chorister at Magdalen College, Oxford, David Swinson studied at the Royal College of Music and Cambridge University where he was organ scholar at Jesus College. Distinctions for organ playing include five major prizes at the Royal College of Music, a scholarship from the Countess of Munster Trust and a place in the final of the 1989 Royal College of Organists performer of the year competition. In 1990 he made his first solo tour giving concerts in Southern Germany, and in 1991 he will be touring Scandinavia and North Germany. David is also active as a choral conductor as Master of the Choristers at Croydon Parish Church and Director of the Tudor Singers of London. He lives in Guildford and is Assistant Director of Music at the Royal Grammar School.

SIMON CARRINGTON**Percussion**

Simon Carrington won a Shell LSO scholarship in 1989 and studied at the Royal College of Music. He has led a short distinguished career so far - on trial as Principal Timpanist with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and more recently as Principal Percussionist with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Since leaving college he has worked with most of the leading London Orchestras including Principal Timpanist with both London Symphony Orchestra and Philharmonia.

S I N G W I T H T H E
G U I L D F O R D P H I L H A R M O N I C
C H O I R

Experience the exhilaration of singing in a chorus of 150 voices with the highly acclaimed Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra under internationally famous conductors. Concerts are given in Guildford's Civic Hall with occasional visits elsewhere. Travel, and contact with foreign choirs is arranged where possible, and in 1990 the choir will visit Southern Germany to perform with the Freiburg Bach Choir and the Orchestra. The Choir has recorded works by Finzi and Hadley with the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra under Vernon Handley.

Rehearsals are held each Monday evening (7.30 - 9.30) in the Methodist Hall, Woodbridge Road, Guildford, with Neville Creed - one of Britain's leading Chorus Masters.

If you have a good, but not necessarily trained voice, why not apply for an audition?

A P P L I C A T I O N F O R M

To: Kathy Atkins, Guildford Philharmonic Choir, The Lodge,
Allen House Grounds, Chertsey Street, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4HL

I wish to apply for an audition to join the Guildford Philharmonic Choir.

Name:
Address:
Voice:

FRIDAY 6 JULY 1990

METHODIST CHURCH HALL at 7.45 p.m.

Tapestry - Recital

Programme includes works by:

*ARNE, BLISS, MAHLER, SCHUBERT, IVOR NOVELLO &
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I Crisantemi

Violin Concerto No. 3 in G

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Symphony No. 83 in G minor (The Hen)

Puccini

Mozart

Vaughan Williams

Haydn

GUILDFORD PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

LUIGI DE FILIPPI (Violin)

GRANT LLEWELLYN (Conductor)

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Tickets: £12.00 and £8.00

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