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Thursday, 22nd December, 1983, at 7.30 p.m.
at FARNHAM MALTINGS



HANDEL'S **MESSIAH**

JENNIFER ADAMS	—	<i>Soprano</i>
AMERAL GUNSON	—	<i>Contralto</i>
NEIL MACKIE	—	<i>Tenor</i>
STEPHEN VARCOE	—	<i>Bass</i>

THE WAVERLEY SINGERS THE TILFORD BACH ORCHESTRA

Leader: PETER STEVENS

Continuo: MURRAY STEWART

Conductor: MALCOLM HICKS

Programme 25p



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MALCOLM HICKS commenced his musical studies at Birmingham University, becoming Assistant Master of the Music at Birmingham Cathedral, and organist and assistant conductor for Birmingham Bach Society and City of Birmingham Choirs. He took the degrees of Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts, and won the Limpus and Turpin prizes respectively in the Associate and Fellowship examinations at the Royal College of Organists. He subsequently studied piano, cello and singing at the Guildhall School of Music. Since 1967 he has pursued a full-time free-lance career in London as key-board player and conductor. He plays with all the major London orchestras, principally the BBC Symphony Orchestra with whom last year he toured Japan and Korea. On recent visits to Mexico and Rome he has worked on the music staff of the European Community Youth Orchestra and an international Festival of Youth Orchestras. He was until recently Associate Conductor of the London Philharmonic Choir. Living in Hertfordshire, he is conductor of Hitchin Concert Orchestra and Hertfordshire Singers. He was appointed Musical Director of the Waverley Singers in May 1982.

JENNIFER ADAMS studied at the Guildhall School of Music. Whilst there she won several prizes including the Lieder Prize, the Liza Lehmann Prize and a Countess of Munster Scholarship for further study in the field of opera. Jennifer made her BBC début in a 'Young Musicians' Concert Hall recital. She is currently a member of the BBC Singers and also has a busy free-lance career at home and abroad in both oratorio and opera. Recent engagements include *Acis and Galatea* in Rome, *Dido and Aeneas* in Padua, *Verdi Requiem* at the Fairfield Halls, *Brahms Requiem* at the Greenwich Festival and *Dixit Dominus* and the *Bach Magnificat* with the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. Miss Adams has just made her first appearance at the Wexford Festival.

AMERAL GUNSON studied at the Guildhall School of Music, and was a pupil of Walther Gruner. She is a frequent performer on BBC Radio 3 and in the London concert halls, with appearances this season including Beethoven's 'Missa Solemnis' at the Royal Festival Hall. She has sung with the L.S.O. under the Mexican conductor Eduardo Mata, with the L.P.O. under Brian Wright, the R.P.O. under Vernon Handley, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Sir Charles Mackerras, Michael Gielen and Gennadi Rozhdestvensky. On record Miss Gunson can be heard in Janacek's 'Glagolitic Mass' with Simon Rattle and the C.B.S.O., Rossini's 'Messa di Gloria', and Puccini's 'Suor Angelica' with Lorin Maazel.

NEIL MACKIE made his London South Bank debut in 1974 with the English Chamber Orchestra under Raymond Leppard. He is a pupil of Sir Peter Pears. Mr. Mackie is an expert at contemporary repertoire, premieres last season including works by Henze and Peter Maxwell Davies. In more conventional opera he has sung *Telemachus* in 'The Return of Ulysses', *Fenton* in 'Falstaff' for Kent Opera, and last season made his Wexford Festival debut in Mozart's 'Zaide'. He also appears all over Britain and Europe both in oratorio and in recitals, this year's concerts including 'Messiah' with the Scottish National Orchestra and in Dublin, as well as several South Bank appearances and performances in Finland, Poland and Switzerland. Neil Mackie appeared with the Waverley Singers in their last 'Messiah' in 1978.

STEPHEN VARCOE was a choral scholar at King's College, Cambridge, and in 1977 won a Gulbenkian Foundation scholarship, which helped to launch his already highly successful career. In recent seasons he has appeared at many of the major European Festivals, and sung concerts in Paris, Lyon, Cologne, Odense and in the Concertgebouw Amsterdam. He works regularly with John Eliot Gardiner in concerts and on record, and appears with many of the major English orchestras. This season Mr. Varcoe will return several times to Cologne, and will be singing in a production of Handel's 'Alexander's Feast' staged by Claus-Helmut Drese and televised. He will appear regularly on London's South Bank, and make several more recordings, notably Holst's 'Savitri' with Philip Langridge and Ann Murray.

PART I

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Overture | |
| 2. Comfort ye My people | <i>Recit. Tenor</i> |
| 3. Ev'ry valley | <i>Air. Tenor</i> |
| 4. And the Glory of the Lord | <i>Chorus</i> |
| 5. Thus saith the Lord | <i>Recit. Bass</i> |
| 6. But who may abide | <i>Air. Bass</i> |
| 7. And he shall purify | <i>Chorus</i> |
| 8. Behold, a virgin shall conceive | <i>Recit. Contralto</i> |
| 9. O thou that tellest good tidings | <i>Air & Chorus</i> |
| 10. For behold, darkness | <i>Recit. Bass</i> |
| 11. The people that walked in darkness | <i>Air. Bass</i> |
| 12. For unto us a child is born | <i>Chorus</i> |
| 13. Pastoral Symphony | |
| 14. There were shepherds | <i>Recit. Soprano</i> |
| And lo! the angel of the Lord | <i>Recit. Soprano</i> |
| 15. And the angel said unto them | <i>Recit. Soprano</i> |
| 16. And suddenly | <i>Recit. Soprano</i> |
| 17. Glory to God | <i>Chorus</i> |
| 18. Rejoice greatly | <i>Air. Soprano</i> |
| 19. Then shall the eyes of the blind | <i>Recit. Contralto</i> |
| 20. He shall feed his flock | <i>Air. Contralto</i> |
| 21. His yoke is easy | <i>Chorus</i> |

INTERVAL

PART II

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 22. Behold the Lamb of God | <i>Chorus</i> |
| 23. He was despised | <i>Air. Contralto</i> |
| 24. Surely He hath borne our griefs | <i>Chorus</i> |
| 25. And with his stripes | <i>Chorus</i> |
| 26. All we like sheep | <i>Chorus</i> |
| 27. All they that see him | <i>Recit. Tenor</i> |
| 28. He trusted in God | <i>Chorus</i> |
| 29. Thy rebuke hath broken His heart | <i>Recit. Tenor</i> |
| 30. Behold, and see | <i>Air. Tenor</i> |
| 31. He was cut off | <i>Recit. Tenor</i> |
| 32. But Thou did'st not leave | <i>Air. Tenor</i> |
| 33. Lift up your heads | <i>Chorus</i> |
| 38. How beautiful are the feet | <i>Air. Soprano</i> |
| 39. Their sound is gone out | <i>Chorus</i> |
| 40. Why do the nations? | <i>Air. Bass</i> |
| 41. Let us break their bonds asunder | <i>Chorus</i> |
| 42. He that dwelleth in Heaven | <i>Recit. Tenor</i> |
| 43. Thou shalt break them | <i>Air. Tenor</i> |
| 44. Hallelujah! | <i>Chorus</i> |

PART III

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 45. I know that my Redeemer liveth | <i>Air. Soprano</i> |
| 46. Since by man came death | <i>Chorus</i> |
| 47. Behold, I tell you a mystery | <i>Recit. Bass</i> |
| 48. The trumpet shall sound | <i>Air. Bass</i> |
| 53. Worthy is the Lamb | <i>Chorus</i> |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Waverley Singers would like to express their gratitude to Messrs. MESSENGER MAY BAVERSTOCK for their very generous financial assistance.

Grateful thanks go also to the undermentioned Patrons for their valuable support:

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The choir acknowledges with thanks the services of its rehearsal accompanist Margery Wakefield.

This concert is subsidised by the National Federation of Music Societies from funds provided by the Arts Council.

Anyone interested in joining the Waverley Singers should contact the Secretary, Mrs. Josephine Reader, The Mews, Frensham, Surrey. (Frensham 2563).

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