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No 054


Phyllis
Tuckwell
Hospice

Registered Charity No. 264501



THE WAVERLEY SINGERS

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

In aid of the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice

LOCKE BRASS CONSORT (Director - Leslie Lake)

*Baritone - Richard Latham
Organ - Richard Pearce
Conductor - Malcolm Hicks*

*Saturday 9th December 2006 at 7.30pm
at St Andrew's Parish Church, FARNHAM*

*Programme £10
(Includes £2.50 donation to the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice)*

The Locke Brass Consort

Trumpets : James Watson
Andrew Hendrie
Gillian Hicks

Horn : John Thurgood
Trombone : Colin Sheen
Tuba : Clifford Bevan

Celebrating its fortieth anniversary this year, the Locke Brass Consort of London has been active in two spheres since its foundation in 1966 by trombonist Leslie Lake. As a quintet it has given many hundreds of educational concerts from Scotland to the Channel Islands and from Wales to Norfolk, and has also given recitals for music clubs throughout the country. In its larger format of a symphonic brass and percussion ensemble it has played a pioneering role in giving performances of larger-scale works, appearing many times at London's South bank and at festivals at home and abroad. In addition to radio broadcasts it has made commercial recordings for labels such as Chandos, CRD, Unicorn, RCA and Koch International, all to great critical acclaim. It has also made appearances on BBC TV's "Songs of Praise".

The Consort has always aimed to promote music of British composers and has commissioned and premiered works by Wilfred Josephs, Daryl Runswick, Gordon Carr, Michael Omer and Gordon Langford amongst others.

The artists who make up the Locke Brass Consort are either members of London's top symphony and opera orchestras or leading freelance musicians, some being well-known as soloists.

Richard Latham- Baritone, was organ scholar at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and choral volunteer in the Choir of King's College, Cambridge. After university he worked as an organist in New York, studying singing with Anthony Manoli. Now living in London, he studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Mark Wildman, Janice Chapman and Iain Ledingham where he appeared in master classes with James Bowman, Dalton Baldwin and Diane Forlano.

Richard's operatic roles to date include Papageno in *The Magic Flute* at Dartington; *Anacréon* by Rameau for Benslow Baroque Opera and *The Beggar's Opera* at the Handel House Museum. In the Royal Academy of Music opera tableaux he has performed scenes from *Dialogue des Carmelites*, *L'Egisto*, *Falstaff*, *Thaïs*, *Billy Budd*, *La Bohème* and *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

Concert performances include Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, *St John Passion*, *Ich habe genug*, *Ein feste Burg*, *Schwingt freudig euch empor*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, *Vesperae solennes de confessore* and Fauré's *Requiem*.

He is generously supported by the Josephine Baker Trust, *Il Circolo Londra* and is a recipient of at Dartington International Festival Award. In 2005 he won the Royal Academy of Music Helen Eames Prize for Early Music.

Richard made his debut with the Waverley Singers in November in our previous concert in Aldershot.

Richard Pearce was organ scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge. He now divides his time between organ playing, concert accompaniment and conducting, and has performed throughout Britain, including recitals at the Purcell Room and the Wigmore Hall, and broadcasts for BBC television and radio, S4C and Classic F.M. He appeared in the final of the 1997 Cardiff Singer of the World Competition, re-released in 1999 as a CD with the *BBC Music Magazine*.

FANTASIA ON CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872 – 1958

Vaughan Williams was a member of the Darwin and Wedgwood families. He had a comfortable upper-class childhood and was educated at Charterhouse. He then studied at the Royal College of Music with Parry, before reading history at Trinity College, Cambridge. (As a student he went to performances of Wagner's *Ring* and *Tristan* conducted by Mahler at Covent Garden.) Free from the burden of having to earn a living he continued to study with Charles Wood, Stanford and later briefly with Max Bruch (1897) and Ravel (1908).

In 1895 he became close friends Gustav Holst and both were influential in collecting English folksongs at the turn of the century. Vaughan Williams began in 1902 and continued for the next ten years, collecting from Essex, Norfolk, Hereford, Surrey and Sussex, publishing many of them in various arrangements. He also worked with Cecil Sharp to collect folksongs before that rich heritage was lost. Cecil Sharp is the dedicatee of the *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*.

Another important body of work was the publication of the English Hymnal, of which Vaughan Williams was the music editor; this year being the centenary. Some of the melodies which he adapted for use in the Hymnal were folksongs: *Monks gate* the tune for *He who would valiant be*, began life as a sea shanty. Some were named after villages near his home in Leith Hill in Surrey, for example *Forest Green*, the traditional melody for *O little town of Bethlehem*. The attraction of folksongs was that the tonal range of the melodies was narrow, making them easier to learn and sing. Percy Dearmer, the Hymnal editor and Vaughan Williams were keen to make the Hymnal more accessible to the working classes. Vaughan Williams was also inspired by a theme by Thomas Tallis (included in the Hymnal) to compose a *Fantasia* for string orchestra in 1910, possibly one of his best known works. He also worked with Dearmer and Martin Shaw on *The Oxford Book of Carols* 1928, which collected together older traditional carol melodies.

A carol can either be a medieval English song with stanzas alternating with a refrain, which is sometimes in Latin: or there is a medieval French tradition using hymn texts set to plainchant tunes or folksongs.

The *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* 1912 is based on traditional carols: *The Truth sent from above* (Herefordshire), *Come all you worthy gentlemen* (Somerset) and *On Christmas night* (Sussex). The melodies are shared between the baritone soloist and the choir.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Arthur Honegger 1892 – 1955

Arthur Honegger was born in Le Havre to Swiss parents and studied in Zurich and Paris with, amongst others, Widor and d'Indy. While at the Paris Conservatory he came into contact with a group of young composers, including Poulenc and Milhaud; a group which was later named *Les Six*. Honegger, however, was most inspired by J S Bach.

Between World War 1 and World War II, Honegger was very prolific composing ballets, operas and scores for films and plays. One of his first successes was *Le roi David*, 1921, a small oratorio. Another popular work was *Pacific 231* in 1923, inspired by a locomotive. He also composed the music for Abel Gance's epic film *Napoléon* in 1927. Later, after the outbreak of World War II, Honegger composed a cycle of five symphonies.

The Christmas Cantata, composed between 1952 and 1953 from an outline in 1941, was Honegger's last work. He had suffered a heart attack in 1947, and his health continued to deteriorate until his death from another heart attack in 1955. In this work Honegger juxtaposed a collection of European carols, each sung in their native tongue, upon each other, celebrating Christmas as a time of peace and goodwill among men of all nations. Listen for the familiar tunes of *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen*; *Il est né le divin Enfant*; *Stille nacht*;

PROGRAMME

(at time of going to press)

O come all ye faithful 18th c. anon. arr Willcocks

Choir carols

Choir and baritone soloist :
Fantasia on Christmas Carols Ralph Vaughan Williams

Brass :
Prelude to the *Te Deum* M A Charpentier
arr Thilde

Rondeau (Abdelazar) Henry Purcell
arr Lake

Trumpet Tune and Air Henry Purcell
arr Lake

Choir carol

Unto us is born a Son arr Willcocks

Baritone solos

Choir carols

While shepherds watched their flocks arr Willcocks

Appeal (on behalf of the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice)

INTERVAL

God rest you merry, gentlemen arr Willcocks

Choir carols

Choir:
Christmas Cantata Honegger

Baritone solos

Brass :
Introit from the Severn Suite Edward Elgar
arr Lake

Hungarian song and dance Antal Farkas

Choir carols

Good King Wenceslas arr Jacques

Organ solo

Choir carols

Hark! the herald angels sing Mendelssohn arr Willcocks

We wish you a merry Christmas arr Warrell

THE WAVERLEY SINGERS

Sopranos

Sue Adcock
Rhian Amery
Janet Carne
Elaine Cook
Beth Davenport
Meryl Davies
Jane Eckles
Lesley Field
Linda Harris
Rosemary Heasman
Carolyn Heathcote
Jennifer Holmes-Smith
Linda Hutton
Jane Kenney
Fiona Lowdon
Beverley Mellstrom
Judith Miller
Angela Morecroft
Gill Nash
Alyson Paterson
Carolyn Patey
Janet Paul
Gillian Pickering
Vivien Rieden
Sarah Shepherd
Christine Siddall
Janis Smy
Jenny Thompson
Joan Warren
Kate Wickenden
Kate Wilson
Caroline Winfield
Liz Witham
Anne Wolstencroft

Altos

Celestine Allison
Rona Ayling
Alison Bosence
Carolyn Calvert
Mayonne Coldicott
Pamela Darker
Jill Denbigh
Fiona Dick
Sheila Edwards
Kathryn Flenley
Elizabeth George
Marian Gooding
Ann Garnett
Catherine Hadfield
Didi Hall
Anneliese Handley
Romola Harper
Janet Henderson
Eunice Hopkins
Isabel Hyde
Linda Katz
Maggie Larkin
Christopher Lawrence
Margaret MacKenzie
Anne Mason
Marian Morgan
Brenda Northgraves
Mary Parker
Jo Reader
Tegwen Robb
Gill Smith
Lucy Stewart
Jennette Wickes
Christine Wilmshurst
Lindy Wiltshire
Janet Wright

Tenors

Tony Amery
Jeff Ayling
Dennis Bignell
David Boxen
Phillip Critchley
John D'Arcy
Tim Devis
Tim Farmer
Robert Gussman
Peter Haines
Jo Huddleston
Deirdre Major
Simon Paterson
Robert Updegraff
Sam Williamson

Basses

Mike Aaronson
David Austin
Geoffrey Barwick
Mike Cabot
Sam Coulter
Rod Eckles
Ben Flenley
Dennis Flower
Iain Gammell
Max Hadfield
Graham Hey
Gordon Leask
Alec Leggatt
Norman Lingard
Tony Parker
Graham Rankin
Trefor Roberts
Simon Rycroft
Peter Slimming
John Smyth
Simon Stoodley
Neil Thompson
Andrew Thomson
David Wilson

Accompanist and Deputy Conductor: Richard Pearce

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Waverley Singers would like to thank their advertisers and patrons for their continuing support.

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Anyone interested in becoming a Patron of the choir is invited to contact Mrs. Catherine Hadfield, Binsted Place, Binsted, Alton, GU34 4PQ (Tel:01420 23146). All Patrons receive advance notice of concerts and priority booking forms, and are entitled to reserved seats in the position of their choice. Their names are listed in concert programmes and they are also invited to the choir's social events. Patrons donating over £50 will receive one free ticket per season. Those donating £100 plus will receive a free season ticket annually. Donations made under Gift Aid are particularly valuable to the choir.

If you would like to join the choir as a singing member would you please contact the Secretary, Miss Judith Miller, 7 Frensham Avenue, Fleet. (Tel 01252 613765).

The Waverley Singers would like to thank the Reverend Andrew Tuck and the PCC for making them so welcome in their lovely church.

The Waverley Singers is a registered charity no.284123, and is affiliated to the National Federation of Music Societies.

Please visit our website for further information at: www.waverleysingers.co.uk