

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT
ARTS COUNCIL**

HARVEST COCKTAIL



**Events in the Epping Forest District
Saturday 11th. to
Saturday 18th. October 1975**

LONDON CONCORD SINGERS

conducted by
Malcolm Cottle

with

Sybil Olive - Violin

Janet Coles - Cello

Graham Owen - Harpsichord

PROGRAMMES: 50p

In leiunio et fletu Thomas Tallis

"Weeping bitterly and wailing, the priests made their supplication. Spare us, gracious Lord, spare Thy people, we pray Thee."

O Nata Lux de Lumine Thomas Tallis

"O Light born of light, Jesu, Redeemer of mankind, hear the prayers and supplications we raise to Thee".

O Sacrum Convivium Thomas Tallis

"O Holy and Sacred feast, wherein Christ is offered, we call to mind in grateful thanks, his most bitter Passion."

I suppose that every choir visiting Waltham Abbey feels it necessary to sing something by Tallis, but we make no apology for following the trend, by including these three Latin motets by someone who was, after all one of the great composers of the so-called Golden Age of English Music.

Tallis was organist of Waltham Abbey up to the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1540. Thanks to his considerable talents he had no difficulty in gaining a position in the royal chapel. In 1575, he and William Byrd were granted the monopoly of music publishing for 20 years, and in the same year they published a collection of 34 motets under the title 'Cantiones Sacrae'. It is from this collection that these three motets are taken.

Jehova quam multi sun hostes mei ... Henry Purcell

"O Lord, how many are mine enemies".

The words of this magnificent anthem are a Latin paraphrase of Psalm 3. In it, the chorus alternates with Tenor and Bass soloists in constantly changing mood, matching the changes of mood of the psalm from despair to trust in the Lord. The passage commencing "Ego cubui et dormivi (I laid me down and slept) shews Purcell at his most expressive.

Trio - Sonata for Violin, Chello and Continuo ...

Henry Purcell

This piece, in G minor, is a mature work in Purcell's unmistakable manner. Roger North wrote of Purcell's "Noble set of Sonnetts, which have ever clog'd with somewhat of an English vein ... are very artificial and good Musick". For English listeners and players that "English vein" is one of Purcell's principal attractions.

O Sacrum Convivium ... Olivier Messiaen

Salve Regina ... Francis Poulenc

"Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy"

Hodie Christus natus est ... Francis Poulenc

"Today Christ is born".

We ended our set of Tallis motets with a setting of "O sacrum convivium", and we now start this set of three modern French motets with Messiaen's setting of the same words. The piece, in spite of always having an extra half-beat in each bar, usually $4\frac{1}{2}$ beats or $3\frac{1}{2}$ beats, has an overall feeling of mystical calm.

The two Poulenc motets, on the other hand have a somewhat disjointed feel to them as is typical of most of his church music. Instead of the music flowing from one phrase to the next, each phrase is treated separately, and usually there is a short rest between them. The second piece is a joyful Christmas motet which even includes at one point a mouth-organ effect.

I N T E R V A L

Five Childhood Lyrics ... John Rutter

1 Monday's Child

2 The Owl and the Pussycat.

3 Windy Nights

4 Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

5 Sing a Song of Sixpence

John Rutter, who is one of today's most promising young composers of tuneful music, composed this charming set of pieces for a concert we gave in the Purcell Room in April 1973.

Folksongs of the British Isles

I know where I'm goin' (Ireland) ... arr. Geoffrey Russell-Smith

I am in love (Cornwall) ... arr. Gustav Holst

There was a tree (Hampshire) ... arr. Gustav Holst

The Turtle Dove (England) arr. Ralph
Vaughan Williams

The Springtime of the Year (England) arr. Ralph
Vaughan Williams

Spirituals

Dry Bones arr. Phyllis Tate

Three Links of Chain arr. Lyn Murray

All my trials arr. Norman Luboff

De Battle ob Jericho arr. C.S. Lang

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LONDON CONCORD SINGERS

The Choir was started in its present form in 1966. It seeks to maintain a small, well-knit group of some thirty voices, practising and performing a wide range of choral music. Its members come from a great variety of backgrounds, though few of them are full-time musicians. The Choir's range of activities is equally varied; it has accepted cabaret engagements at many functions, as well as promoting very successful concerts in and around London. In 1974 the Choir sang in all three South Bank concert halls, and in St. John's, Smith Square, S.W.1. The group is also much-travelled, and has won competitive prizes at home and abroad. It has visited Richmond, Surrey, Walkern in Hertfordshire, Buxton, Castle Howard near York, Chester Cathedral and the Teesside International Festival, where they achieved second place. Previous festival appearances have included Montreux and Dubrovnik. The Choir has enjoyed an enthusiastic reception from both audiences and Press.

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