

LONDON
CONCORD
SINGERS

St George's,
Hanover Square

Thursday 18 December 1975
at 8pm

Programme 80p

LONDON CONCORD SINGERS

Conductor: MALCOLM COTTLE

GRAHAM OWEN, Organ

DAVID DUNN, Harp

Five Carols

RICHARD RODNEY BENNETT

Two Motets

ANTON BRUCKNER

Organ Solos by Graham Owen

Song to the Virgin Mary

ANDRZEJ PANUFNIK

INTERVAL

Ceremony of Carols

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

FIVE CAROLS**RICHARD RODNEY BENNETT (1936-)**

1. There is no rose
2. Out of your sleep
3. That younge child
4. Sweet was the song
5. Susanni

Richard Rodney Bennett is one of the most versatile of British composers today. As well as writing several operas which have been performed at Sadler's Wells and Covent Garden, and much serious orchestral and instrumental music, he has his own jazz trio and has done many arrangements for the King's Singers. This charming set of carols was composed for the choir of St. Matthew's Church, Northampton in 1967.

TWO MOTETS**ANTON BRUCKNER (1824-1896)**

1. Ave Maria
2. Virga Jesse floruit

In spite of the fact that he was a church organist for most of his life, Bruckner wrote very little choral music for church use, most of his creative energy was used in composing his massive symphonies. He did however leave us a few Motets along with the three great Masses. Bruckner was a deeply devout man and his religious fervour shows in every note, particularly in the beautiful setting of Ave Maria, which was written for his choir at Linz where he became organist at the cathedral in 1856. Virga Jesse floruit is dedicated to the Director of Music at the great Abbey of St. Florian, where he was also organist for a time.

ORGAN SOLOS**SONG TO THE VIRGIN MARY****ANDRZEJ PANUFNIK (1914-)**

Panufnik lived in his native Poland until 1954. He was conductor of the Cracow and then the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestras. He left Poland for political reasons, and has lived and worked since then in this country. His works include three symphonies, a number of overtures and choral works. Of the Song to the Virgin Mary, Panufnik has said "... my intention was to invoke the adoration, warmth and pure faith of the Polish peasant, for whom worship of the Virgin Mary has a very special closeness and significance". The melodic theme based on the pentatonic scale has a close relation to Polish folk music as well as some distant flavour of plainchant.

INTERVAL

A CEREMONY OF CAROLS**BENJAMIN BRITTEN (1913-)**

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|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Procession | 6. This little babe |
| 2. Wolcum Yule | 7. Interlude |
| 3. There is no rose | 8. In freezing winter night |
| 4a That younge child | 9. Spring carol |
| 4b Balulalow | 10. Deo Gracias |
| 5. As dew in Aprile | 11. Recession |

Britten's Ceremony of Carols was originally written for boys' voices and harp. We sing it tonight in the arrangement by Julius Harrison for mixed choir. Opening with a plainsong processional, the 'Ceremony' consists of settings of ancient carols and Christmas poems, each displaying Britten's marvellous ability to mirror in his music the words that he is setting. The work ends with the same plainsong with which it opened.

CAROLS

- *Hark the herald angels sing
- Shepherds' pipe carol
- Nativity carol
- Boar's head carol
- Shepherds' cradle song
- Silent night
- The three kings
- *O come all ye faithful

John Rutter
John Rutter
arr. Elizabeth Poston
Karl Leuner. arr. Chas. MacPherson
Franz Gruber. arr. Laurence Howes
Peter Cornelius

**It is hoped that the audience will join in the singing of these carols.*

John Rutter is one of our most promising young composers and his Shepherds' Pipe Carol is rapidly becoming one of the classic carols. Next comes a setting of the traditional Boar's head carol by Elizabeth Poston. Charles MacPherson was a chorister of St. Paul's Cathedral and later became assistant organist then organist there. The beautiful arrangement of Silent Night is by a former member of the London Concord Singers. Peter Cornelius was a mid-nineteenth century German composer: in his setting of the Three Kings the narrative is sung by a soloist while the choir provide accompaniment by singing the chorale 'How brightly shines the morning star'.

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, SW1. The group is also much-travelled, and has won competitive prizes at home and abroad. It has visited Richmond, Surrey, Walkern in Hertfordshire, Buxton in Derbyshire, Castle Howard near York, Chester Cathedral and the Teeside 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.

MALCOLM COTTLE

Tonight's conductor sang for many years as a boy with the choir of St Paul's Cathedral, during which time he sang at the Coronation of the Queen. He also, with the Cathedral choir, toured the United States of America. More recently, as well as conducting the London Concord Singers, he has worked as repetiteur with the New Opera Company at Sadlers Wells Theatre, and toured as Musical Director with the show *Close the Coalhouse Door*. He has appeared as Musical Director at the Sheffield Playhouse, the Swan Theatre, Worcester and the Nottingham Playhouse in *The Canterbury Tales*.

London Concord Singers' next concert in London will be at St Alban's, Holborn on Thursday April 1st 1976 at 7.30pm, and will include Rachmaninov's Vesper Mass.

The National Federation of Music Societies, to whom this society is affiliated, supports these concerts with funds made available by the Arts Council of Great Britain.

London Concord Singers would welcome friends wishing to subscribe to increase the activities of the group. Anyone requiring further details or wishing to be placed on the mailing list please contact:

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