



Tyndale
Choral Society

Conductor: Michael Power

Reg. Charity No. 284840

*Jubilee
Concert*

7.30pm Saturday June 29th
St. Mary's Church
Wotton-under-Edge.

Programme 50p

Tyndale Choral Society

Conductor Michael Power

with

Richard Bacon *baritone*
Christopher Boodle *piano*

Programme

Songs of the Fleet Charles - C V Stanford (1852 - 1924)

The Sprig of Thyme - John Rutter

H.M.S.Pinafore - W S Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan
ACT 1

Interval

(Wine and juice will be available
- please buy tickets in advance)

H.M.S.Pinafore
ACT 2.

Programme notes by Michael Power

SOLOISTS

Richard Bacon sang with us in *An Evening at the Opera* in the summer concert in 2000. He studied singing with Susan Gray of Ashtead and has been singing principal operatic roles with companies in the Surrey area for over thirty years. These have included characters such as Papageno in Mozart's *Magic Flute*, Germont in Verdi's *Traviata*, Bobinet in Offenbach's *La Vie Parisienne* and Eisenstein in Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* as well (of course) as a good range of Gilbert and Sullivan roles. Richard has also enjoyed performing in concerts, recitals, and a wide range of oratoria.

Christopher Boodle has joined us on numerous occasions both as a soloist and an accompanist. He was educated at New College, Oxford and the Royal College of Music in London. He also gained ARCO and FRCO diplomas. Following a period in Belfast, Northern Ireland where he was Assistant Cathedral Organist, he now lives in Gloucester and combines the various activities of organ-playing, composing and teaching. His organ playing has taken him to Festivals both here and abroad. Compositions include much organ music, church music, a Passiontide Oratorio, the Cantata *Death of a Martyr* written for the Tyndale Choral Society in 1994, and three symphonies. He is an Associate Member of the Performing Rights Society and Chairman of the Stroud Festival. Further information can be obtained by visiting www.sudpark.demon.co.uk.

Charles Villiers Stanford was the most distinguished and capable British composer of the end of the 19th century. He was Irish by birth but lived most of his life in England. He took to music early but his father insisted that he read classics at Cambridge before he could embark on a serious study of music. After gaining a third class degree in classics he moved to Leipzig to study music. His music did not take on the air of pomposity paraded by many of the foreign imitators of German music, but it is easy to hear a strong Brahmsian influence in much of his early works.

His works range from anthems and settings of the morning and evening canticles through to symphonies, concertos and operas, (he wrote 10), as well as incidental music and dramatic choral cantatas and part songs and solo songs. His orchestral music is only now beginning to be reassessed and found to contain much fine music that has so far been unjustly neglected. It is taking its rightful place in concert programmes and on the lists of recording companies.

Songs of the Fleet , opus 117 for baritone solo and chorus is a setting of words by Henry Newbolt.

First performed in the Leeds Festival of 1910, the work has five movements.

1. Sailing at Dawn. (*Andante molto tranquillo*). You can feel the gentle swell of the sea with occasional movement in the accompaniment's semiquavers. Each verse is started by the soloist with a repeated refrain sung by the chorus. The music is the same for all verses with the words 'Lead the line' being passed from soloist to chorus and back again towards the end of the movement.

2. Song of the Sou'Wester. This is a lively movement, marked *Allegro non troppo, ma con fuoco* , (Not too fast but with fire). Again the baritone sings the bulk of the words with the chorus refrain, "I am the enemy most of might" being sung three times.

3. The Middle Watch (*Andante molto tranquillo*). To an accompaniment of gentle triplets the chorus sing the words, "In a blue dusk the ship astern uplifts her slender spars". The baritone verse continues in the same mood and while the soloist continues, the chorus sing long phrases under his melody.

4. The Little Admiral (*Allegro Vivace*). This vigorous movement with its often repeated chorus refrain stays in the mind. The tenors and basses of the chorus sing the bulk of the refrains until the end of verse 4 when the sopranos and altos join in for the first time.

5. Fare Well (*Quasi Adagio*). This is a tender, gentle setting of words commemorating the dead. "And be thou comforted because they died for thee. Mother! Fare-well, fare-well. For evermore their life and thine are one."

The Sprig of Thyme by John Rutter is a cycle of Folk Song settings for mixed choir. The original is scored for a small chamber ensemble. All the settings display Rutter's originality and feeling for the words and melodies. They are composed with care, charm and skill. There are 11 songs:

1. The bold grenadier English
2. The keel row Northumbrian
3. The willow tree English
4. The sprig of thyme (sopranos) Lincolnshire
5. Down by the sally gardens Irish
6. The cuckoo English
7. I know where I'm going (sopranos) Irish
8. Willow song 16th century music and words
9. O, can you sew cushions (sopranos and altos) Scottish
10. The miller of Dee (tenors and basses) English
11. Afton water Scottish

H.M.S. Pinafore or the Lass that loved a sailor, words by W S Gilbert and music by Arthur Sullivan.

A few years ago we sang *Trial by Jury* here in Wotton at our Summer Concert. This was the first operetta commissioned by Mr D'Oyly Carte, written by Gilbert and Sullivan, and was performed at the Royalty Theatre in March 1875. Three years later, at the Opera Comique, HMS Pinafore (*or* The Lass that loved a Sailor) was performed for the first time.

This is a Gilbertian view of the British Navy which takes place on the deck of HMS Pinafore, moored in Portsmouth harbour. Richard Bacon sings the role of Captain Corcoran while the rest of the cast are largely drawn from members of the Choral Society who are enjoying 'letting their hair down', as they did in *Trial by Jury*. There are some beautiful musical moments but the song sung by Sir Joseph Porter, KCB, First Lord of the Admiralty, is probably the best known of all comic songs. Sir Joseph tells us how he rose to his position because, 'When I was a lad, I served a term as office boy to an attorney's firm'.

Gilbert adapted the plot from one of his Bab ballads, written some time before. The amiable captain of the Mantelpiece was transformed into the equally mild and amiable commander of the Pinafore. On board this vessel there is the theoretical belief that love levels all distinctions of rank, However while theoretically excellent, the idea cannot be made to work practically. The hero is Ralph Rackstraw, who modestly describes himself as the smartest 'topman' in the navy. Alas, Ralph loves the Captain's daughter, as does Sir Joseph Porter. After Sir Joseph has stated that the British sailor is

the equal of any man on earth, Ralph woos Josephine who at first rejects him but after threatening to blow out his own brains with a loaded pistol, she relents. They arrange to elope but are betrayed by Dick Deadeye. The First Lord, when he finds that the girl he hopes to marry is running off with an ordinary sailor, now amends his idea that 'love levels all ranks' and adds that 'it does to a considerable extent, but it does not level them as much as that'.

The plot develops because Little Buttercup confesses that formerly she practiced 'baby farming' and had mistakenly mixed up Ralph with Captain Corcoran. The two men change uniforms, miraculously discovering that they fit perfectly and Corcoran AB joins hands with Little Buttercup and Ralph condescends to marry the humble Josephine, formerly so far above him but now beneath him in station.

Pinafore was a success not only in London but in America as well. In 1879, Gilbert, Sullivan, and Carte sailed to New York to produce their own version of the pirated American production at the Fifth Avenue Theatre. At one time there were eight theatres in New York performing the operetta at the same time. In one City a hundred thousand barrel organs were built to play nothing but tunes from Pinafore.



Rehearsal Accompanist.

We are still urgently looking for a regular rehearsal pianist. Please let it be known around and let us know if you can help. In the meantime we are most grateful to Stephen Lea and Elizabeth Power who have done sterling work helping us prepare for tonight's concert.

Tynale Choral Society

Founder --- Mrs M Neale
President --- Dr John Sanders OBE



Friends

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The Society is most grateful to its Friends for their generous support and continuing interest. If you too would like to become a Friend, please give your name and address to the Chairman, Anne Shipton, or any member of the Society.

It is with regret that we record the recent deaths of Chick Workman, who was a founder member, and Audrey Harbord who was a member for many years. Both of them were very loyal members of the Society.



The Society is indebted to Dursley Town Council
for their continued support with donations.

Concert Programme for 2002

Winter Concert

Saturday 9th November

Dursley Parish Church

Four Coronation Anthems - G F Handel
Dies Natalis - Song cycle by Gerald Finzi
St Nicholas - Benjamin Britten
with

Stephen Davies (tenor)

Stroud High School for Girls Choir

and

Tyndale Chamber Orchestra
conducted by Michael Power



Rehearsals for this programme begin on Monday 8th July 2001 at 7.30pm in Stinchcombe Village Hall. New members in all parts will be most welcome.

If you are interested in joining, please contact the Chairman:

Anne Shipton, 21 Shakespeare Road, Whiteway, Dursley