

The Chantry Singers

present

SOUNDS LIKE SUMMER

Conductor :- Timothy Venvell

The Marble Hall,
Clandon Park

Friday 8th July 1988 8.00 p.m.

price 30p

PROGRAMME

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| 1. Blow away the morning dew
The Turtle Dove
<i>Baritone solo</i> | Trad. arr. Malcolm Archer
Trad. arr. R. Vaughan Williams
<i>Simon Brennan</i> |
| Raindrops keep fallin' on my head | arr. Philip Ledger |
| 2. Now is the month of maying
Weep, weep, mine eyes
Mother, I will have a husband | Thomas Morley
John Wilbye
Thomas Vautor |
| 3. Interlude
Syrinx
Flight of the Bumblebee
<i>Flute</i> | Debussy
Rimsky Korsakov
<i>Patrick Baker</i> |
| 4. Choral Dances from 'Gloriana'
1 Time
2 Concord
3 Time and Concord | Benjamin Britten
4 Country Girls
5 Rustics and Fishermen
6 Final Dance of Homage |

INTERVAL

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| 5. Linden Lea
My love dwelt in a northern land
The Shower | R. Vaughan Williams
Edward Elgar
Edward Elgar |
| 6. Hello Dolly
Some enchanted evening | Rodgers and Hammerstein
arr. Mabley |
| 7. Interlude - Bach goes to Town
<i>Keyboard</i> | <i>Christopher Mabley</i> |
| 8. Calico Pie
Stars fell in Alabama
Just the way you look tonight
Send in the clowns
I do like to be beside the seaside | Grayston Ives
arr. Ron Law
arr. Phil Hanworth
Stephen Sondheim
arr. John Bawden |

Christopher Mabley was born in 1958 in Surrey. He was educated at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he was Organ Scholar. He gained his M.A. and F.R.CO. during that time, and later won the West of England Organ Competition. He became known in Guildford as accompanist to the Guildford Philharmonic Chorus, and now works with Twickenham Choral Society, while holding the position of Assistant Director of Music at Hampton School.

Patrick Baker is principal flute in the Royal College of Music Junior Department Symphony Orchestra. He has just taken his A levels at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, where he held the music scholarship with great distinction.

Timothy Venvell was educated at Magdalen College School, Oxford, and St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, where he was Organ Scholar. He became Assistant Director of Music at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, in 1981, and 18 months later formed The Chantry Singers. For five years he was organist and choirmaster at St. Saviour's Church, Guildford. In 1987 he relinquished both Guildford posts to become Director of Music at Kingston Grammar School, and took over the KGS Choral Society. Twice a year he directs Ex Collegio, an occasional choir of experienced amateurs, which broadcast on Radio 3 in 1984, and has just made a record.

Programme Notes

This evening's programme is a collection of gems from the lighter side of the choral repertoire, spanning the centuries from Tudor madrigals to songs of the Thirties, Forties, Fifties and even Sixties.

We begin with contrasting arrangements of two traditional tunes. In the early part of the century Vaughan Williams and Holst became very interested in English folk music, and the setting of 'The Turtle Dove' is one of many Vaughan Williams made of native folk tunes. More recently, folk songs have been given a very different treatment by arrangers writing for close harmony groups such as The King's Singers and The Scholars, often bringing out the latent humour and wit of the songs. In such style is our first item, arranged by Malcolm Archer, organist of Bristol Cathedral. The third song, 'Raindrops keep fallin' on my head', was arranged by Philip Ledger for the King's College, Cambridge, choral scholars.

In the 16th century, most entertainment was homespun, and it was the need for good songs to sing at home that led to the rise of the Elizabethan madrigal. The idea of setting pictorial texts to evocative settings came from Italy, but flourished in a special way in Tudor England. 'Now is the month of maying' is probably one of the most famous of all madrigals. 'Weep, weep, mine eyes' really transcends the medium of amateur music-making at home, becoming an agonisingly expressive outpouring of grief on a grand scale, while 'Mother, I will have a husband' is rather more lighthearted in approach, as you might guess.

The first half concludes with the six Choral Dances from Benjamin Britten's 'Gloriana'. Britten's greatest contribution to music is probably in the field of opera and choral music, and tonight's Choral Dances fittingly combine these two aspects of his work. 'Gloriana' (1953), Britten's opera celebrating Elizabeth I, is not generally recognised as one of his most successful works, but the lively and original Choral Dances have always found favour with modern chamber choirs. 'Time' is clearly built on various clock chimes with a contrasting middle section. 'Concord' is suitably peaceful, while 'Time and Concord' is a neatly worked out canon between upper and lower voices. The choir then divides for 'Country Girls' (ladies) and 'Rustics and Fishermen' (gentlemen), before coming together for a majestic yet serene conclusion.

The second half begins with three songs from the turn of the century. 'Linden Lea' is a justifiably famous song, which sounds like a folksong, but actually is original. The two partsongs by Elgar are miniature masterpieces, with his usual attention to detail, picking up every nuance of the words. Our next two songs are from the more boisterous world of the musical, neither song needing much introduction.

We stay in the realms of the 20th century popular song for our closing numbers. 'Calico Pie' sounds like a close harmony arrangement, but in fact, isn't, being an original composition by a 17-year-old Grayston Ives, (now an established composer and one-time member of The King's Singers). The words are by Edward Lear. Phil Hanworth was also a teenager when he arranged 'Stars fell in Alabama' and 'Just the way you look tonight'. 'Send in the clowns' is given unusual treatment in this arrangement, but the character of the original song is enhanced rather than masked. The last song is doubtless known by all, but listen carefully for the last verse arrangement, by John Bawden, formerly a lay-clerk at Guildford Cathedral.

NEXT CONCERTS

Concert for St. Nicholas in Bookham Parish Church at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 3rd December 1988.

Mozart Requiem in Holy Trinity Church, Guildford at 8.00 p.m. on Saturday 25th February 1989.

The Chantry Singers

The Chantry Singers meet to rehearse on Tuesday evenings during term-time at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford. There are a few vacancies for singers, especially tenors, with good sight-reading ability. For further information about the choir and its activities please telephone Guildford 67062.