



U3A MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP



13th NEWSLETTER – October 2009

Talking Brass

Brian introduced two colleagues who served with him as musicians in the Royal Horse Guards between 1953 and 1956: Roy Souster who played cornet and was a State Trumpeter, and Trevor Austin who played Euphonium. Trevor now owns a shop in Beaconsfield selling brass instruments.

Roy started by showing a picture of all the instruments that make up a brass band and explained in detail how a cornet is constructed, length of tube and use of valves. He



continued by demonstrating how to get a sound out of the instrument by “spitting” into a mouthpiece. He explained about double and triple tonguing, and played a humorous, virtuoso version of the Carnival of Venice. He followed this up with a description of a typical brass band and the instruments they use. He also described the early “male dominated” attitude to brass band players, illustrating this with a short extract from the film *Brassed Off*, and followed this up with a performance by Alison Balsom of the last movement of Hummel’s Trumpet Concerto. Roy finished by outlining his career in Brass, Military and Dance bands. He illustrated his role in various ceremonial occasions and the garb that was used by state trumpeters for these. Roy also described his role at the Coronation.

Trevor gave us all a comprehensive overview of the development of brass bands from the middle ages through to their high point in the 1920s. He went on to give a detailed explanation of the development of brass instruments from simple pieces of brass tubing to today’s sophisticated valve instruments. As bands became popular they started to compete with each other and this competitive spirit extended nationally with bands competing at such important venues as the Symphony Hall Birmingham and the Royal Albert Hall. By the First World War it was estimated that there were some 10,000 bands. However because of the war many bandmen did not return home and before long the country went into recession. The second world war exacerbated the situation and reduced the number of bands even more. Trevor finally brought us up to date with the present situation with many brass bands playing popular “Classics” and modern “Big Band” music.

Coronation Anthem

Along with Roy’s section on ceremonial music and the Coronation, Keith played Parry’s “I Was Glad”, which is universally recognised as a masterpiece of ceremonial music. This has been performed at every coronation ceremony since 1902 and at many other royal occasions. Keith played the full-blown version, including the *Vivats*, scored for a choir of 430, large orchestra, organ, and ten fanfare trumpeters.

This processional anthem was first performed at the Coronation of King Edward VII, though not quite as splendidly as intended. Parry was worried about how it would go, based on the rather “perfunctory” rehearsal on the previous day. His uneasiness was justified! Sir Frederick Bridge, the music director, was unaware that the King’s party was behind schedule. “Bridge seemed to lose his head” wrote Parry, “finished the whole anthem before the King came in at all!” When the King finally entered the Abbey, he was accompanied up the Nave by organ improvisation. When he reached the organ screen, the *Vivats* and the end of the anthem had to be repeated.

Find out more about Sir Hubert Parry at our forthcoming session in November.

Future Sessions

Date	Provisional Programme
19 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♪ Sir Hubert Parry – his life and music part 1 (Keith). We all know of Parry for his song “Jerusalem”, composed towards the end of his life. But his importance in the English musical renaissance extends far beyond this famous short piece. This session will study his rise to prominence in the 1880s, with emphasis on his first three symphonies as well as other orchestral, chamber and choral works. ♪ “Diverse Selections” music from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, including an unusual version of the Aranjuez concerto.
17 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♪ Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957 (Jay). Although Sibelius lived for 91 years he stopped composing in 1926, which Jay finds sad. He was originally influenced by Tchaikovsky and Russian composers, but after Finland gained sovereignty his music became more nationalistic and very much a style of his own. He wrote many tone and symphonic poems: most well known are Karelia Suite, Tapiola, Swan of Tuonela and of course Finlandia - a second national anthem. He wrote seven wonderful symphonies and an excellent violin concerto. As a symphonist, he is always listed among the foremost of the 20th century, with names such as Vaughan Williams, Mahler and Shostakovich. It is quite easy to confuse the music of Haydn, Mozart and early Beethoven; confusing Sibelius's music with anyone else's is much more difficult. Sibelius is a great exponent of all things Finnish. ♪ Christmas music, along with some seasonal treats and refreshments.
21 Jan 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♪ Max Bruch (Keith). He is best known now for his famous Violin Concerto, which is Number 1 in the Top 100 most popular classical works according to musica.co.uk. We'll hear an excerpt from this, and will also introduce some of his other works, including his Concerto for Two Pianos, and an excerpt from his Third Symphony. ♪ The Clarinet from Baroque to modern music, including jazz (Brian)
18 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♪ Schubert (Wendy) ♪ other topic(s) to be advised in due course

Please note the above dates in your diary. We look forward to seeing you at (or soon after) 9.45am on 19 November.

Marlow Music Festival

This year's Festival runs from Saturday 7 November to Thursday 19 November. Each entrant will have the opportunity to perform not just before an audience but in front of the country's top specialist adjudicators who are there solely to give kindly and constructive advice to improve performance. You can be part of the audience for any class or session. The Programme is as follows (all events at the Shelley Theatre, Court Garden):

Dates (November)	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Saturday 7 th		2.00: vocal**	4.00: vocal**
Sunday 8 th	9.30: vocal	2.30: vocal**	5.30: vocal**
Tuesday 10 th		4.45: strings	7.10: strings**
Thursday 12 th		4.30: school choirs**	6.20: school choirs**
Friday 13 th		4.30: piano	7.05: piano
Saturday 14 th	10.00: piano	2.25: piano	6.45: piano
Sunday 15 th	10.00: piano	2.10: piano**	6.00: piano**
Wednesday 18 th		4.20: brass, woodwind	7.05: brass, woodwind, composition
Thursday 19 th			7.00: Concert**

Potential highlights** include the show song sessions and vocal duets (7th and 8th), string and guitar ensembles (10th), the school choirs (12th), the advanced and open piano recitals (15th) and the closing concert (19th).

A complete programme listing all the performers and the works that they will perform is available from Keith.

AUDIENCE ADMISSION CHARGES	Adults and Children over 12	Children under 12 and OAPs
Per session (morning/afternoon/evening)	£1.00	£0.50
Per day	£1.50	£0.75
Season ticket for all classes	£5.00	£2.50
Festival Concert (19 November)	£5.00	£2.50

Marlow Music Festival
Programme
 7th-19th November
 The Shelley Theatre
 Court Garden
 Marlow
£ 2.00
 2009
 www.MarlowMusicFestival.co.uk
 Registered Charity Number 1055892
 Affiliated to The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech

Concerts

Local concerts in the next few weeks include:

- ♪ Misbourne Symphony Orchestra at Amersham, 7.45pm on 14 November: Vaughan Williams, Beethoven, film scores by Alfred Newman and John Williams.
- ♪ Marlow Music Festival closing concert and presentation of awards and prizes. Shelley Theatre, Court Garden. 7pm Thursday 19 November.
- ♪ Wooburn Singers/Emfeb String Orchestra, "Heart Strings", 7.30pm on 21 November. Saint Nicholas Church, Taplow. Music by Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Mozart, Franck and Fauré.
- ♪ Amersham Festival. 8pm on 27 November: Purcell, Bach, Handel

♪ London Bridge Ensemble at Beaconsfield, 7.45pm on 28 November: Bridge, Vaughan Williams, Brahms.

♪ Wooburn Singers Christmas Concert, 7.30pm on 12 December, All Saints Church, Marlow.

Contact the Theatre Group if you would like to attend the Valentine's Day concert by the Philharmonia Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall (Sun 14 Feb 2010 at 3pm). This includes music by Tchaikovsky, Bruch, Khachaturian, Dvorak and Bizet.

Happy listening!

Brian (484099) and Keith (891507)

P.S. Don't forget that you can view what we have done at previous sessions at our web site:
<http://www.marlowu3a.org.uk/id12.html>