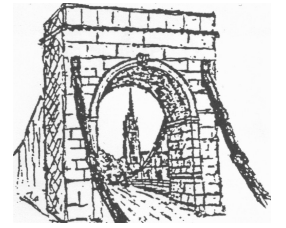




# MARLOW U3A MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP

21<sup>st</sup> NEWSLETTER – June/July 2010



## ***Debussy and the Impressionist Movement***

Brian started by outlining Debussy's career and his association with the Symbolist group of poets led by Mallarmé. He inspired the revolutionary artistic scholars of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to develop Dadaism, Surrealism and Futurism. Mallarmé was a French Symbolist poet who developed an artistic and poetic movement or style using symbols and indirect suggestion to express ideas and emotions. Debussy was also influenced by the "impressionist" movement, although he did not regard himself as an "impressionist" Composer. Nevertheless certain works seem to evoke descriptive images through suggestion of mood (the musical equivalent of "impressionism" in the visual arts)

Brian played three pieces of music:-

1. *Prelude a L'après midi d'un faune*
2. *Sirens* from his Nocturnes Suite
3. *The Little Negro* and *Golliwogs Cake-walk* from the Children's Corner Suite

## ***Reinhold Moritsevich Glière, Alexander Glazunov and the Russian Revolution***

During the second half of the morning Brian explained how the Russian Revolution made an impact on Russian composers and their music. At first the new Russian leadership encouraged experimental work in all the arts. But by the 1930s it all changed and banality and uniformity were the themes of the day. This all stemmed from the words of Lenin "Art belongs to the people".

**Glière** from 1920 to his retirement in 1941 taught composition at the Moscow Conservatory. He showed particular interest in ethnic music from the minorities of the Soviet Union. In the early years of the Revolution he headed the music section of the Moscow Department of Popular Education and was Chairman of the Organising Committee of USSR Composers. He supported the Russian leadership's views on banning "adventurous music" and sympathised with their condemnation of the music produced by various composers such as Prokofiev and Shostakovich. His compositions illustrate clearly enough his preference for the relatively Western classicism of Tchaikovsky rather than the Nationalism of the "FIVE"

Brian played three pieces of music:

1. The second movement of his first Symphony
2. The Russian Sailors' Dance from his famous *Red Poppy* Ballet
3. The Second movement from his Second Symphony.

**Glazunov** was a genius! He won major prizes on the piano at nine and was composing at eleven. When he appeared in public at 16 he was hailed as a truly brilliant composer with an astonishing natural talent that promised a bright future for Russian Music.

Unfortunately he had a morbid craving for alcohol which particularly affected his conducting. It is well known that he conducted Rachmaninov's first Symphony so badly it caused him to have a nervous breakdown. He spent his last years in Paris as a disinherited ghost from the past who had nothing to offer the modern world.

Brian played three pieces of music:

1. The second movement of his Symphony No.2
2. Meditation opus 32
3. Ballade in F Major opus 78.

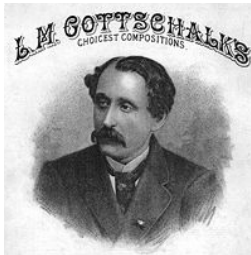
### ***Japanese Connections***

We've noticed two concerts by Japanese musicians in Marlow. The young pianist Akiko Murakami's gave a recital last month of works by Bach, Chopin, Ravel, Takemitsu, Brahms and Rachmaninoff at the Marlow Recital Society. In August the "Mercury Glee Club" (MGC) will give a concert at All Saints Church, Marlow.

The MGC is an all-male choir from Tokyo's Hitotsubashi University. Members are on average in their 70s and are drawn from a wide cross-section of both international and domestic professions. MGC's principal repertoire covers Japanese and international folkloric and concert music as well as European sacred music from the Renaissance period to the present era.

We have scheduled our own session entitled "Japanese Connections" for this December. We will cover music by Japanese composers, as well as music played by Japanese musicians and European compositions with a Japanese theme.

### ***Future Sessions***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Provisional Programme</b>	
15 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>"The Birth of American Classical Music"</b>. This will include music from the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Gottschalk, Chadwick, MacDowell, Foote, Beach, Sousa and Joplin (presented by John Burbridge and Keith)</li><li>▪ <b>"Playing the Cello"</b> presented by Chris Gadsby from the Bracknell music group.</li></ul>	
	(Note: no meeting in August)	
16 Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Works that can be heard at the RPO's forthcoming concert in Wycombe:</b> Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, Sibelius's <i>Finlandia</i>, and Elgar's <i>Enigma Variations</i> (presented by Brian, Jay and Keith)</li><li>▪ <b>The Saxophone in Modern Jazz</b> (presented by John King and Brian)</li></ul>	
21 Oct	<b>The Land of the Mountain and the Flood</b> – music associated with Scotland	

Please note the above dates in your diary. We look forward to seeing you at (or soon after) 9.45am on 17 June.

## ***Schedule for Next Year***

It is very encouraging that more of our group members are now suggesting and presenting topics. This helps to diversify the types of music that we are appreciating. Towards the end of this newsletter (pages 5 and 6) we have summarised what we have done so far, and what we plan for the remainder of 2010.

During the summer pause, please consider once again the direction that you would like our group to take, any sessions that you would like to present, and any new topics that you would like to hear about. Brian and Keith are ready to provide any assistance you may need if you have a topic that you are keen to present. We hope that you will take a few moments to complete (and return to Keith) the attached questionnaire, which will help us to develop a programme for 2011.

## ***Our Waiting List***

Recent demand for places at our meetings has been strong, and so Brian is placing potential new group members on a waiting list.

So that we can make full use of the capacity that is available at the Rowing Club, could regular members please let Brian know if you will be unable to attend any forthcoming meeting(s). Either phone Brian directly (484099) or put a **X** in the appropriate box(es) on the list at the reception/coffee table at the next meeting. Brian will then be able to contact those on the waiting list, if spare capacity is identified for a particular meeting.

## ***Concerts/Events***

Local events in the next few weeks include:

- ♪ Music for clarinet, cello, piano and soprano – Beethoven, Schubert, Debussy, Ireland – 8pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July at Jubilee Hall Seer Green.
- ♪ Music for a Sunday Afternoon: Concert by the award-winning High Wycombe Music Centre Guitar Consort. Admission free. 4pm on 11 July at All Saints Church, Marlow. Afternoon tea will be served at 4.45pm.
- ♪ Meng Yang Pan (piano) – Haydn, Poulenc, Liszt, Mussorgsky, 7.30pm on Thursday 29 July at Norden Farm.
- ♪ Laurie Holloway Trio (plus guests) – 7.30pm on Saturday 31 July at Norden Farm.
- ♪ International Piano Festival (soloists include Fou Ts'ong, Christina Ortiz, Olli Mustonen, Andras Schiff and Michael Roll), 6 concerts, 8pm Monday 2 August → Saturday 7 August at various venues in Oxford.
- ♪ Cordelia Williams (piano) – JS Bach, Ravel, Beethoven, Medtner, 7.30pm on Thursday 12 August at Norden Farm.
- ♪ Euro-Japanese Exchange Concert featuring the Mercury Glee Club, 7.30pm on Saturday 21 August at All Saints Church, Marlow.
- ♪ Finzi String Quartet – Haydn, Bridge, Schubert, 7.30pm on Thursday 2 September at Norden Farm.
- ♪ Marlow Recital Society: Ricard Rovirosa (piano), Beethoven, Liszt, Schumann, Granados, Falla and Mompou, 7.30pm on Saturday 11th September at Vine House, Glade Road, Marlow.
- ♪ St.John's Ensemble – Beethoven, Dohnanyi, Schubert, 7.30pm on Thursday 16 September at Norden Farm.
- ♪ Royal Philharmonic Orchestra concert on Sunday 3 October at Wycombe Swan – see item on next page.

- ♪ Wycombe Sinfonia – Robins, Walton, Butterworth, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, 7.30pm on Saturday 16 October at All Saints Parish Church, High Wycombe
- ♪ City of London Sinfonia – Holst, Walton, Britten, Esenvalds, Lambert, 7.30pm on Sunday 24 October at Wycombe Swan.
- ♪ Marlow Choral Society – Autumn Concert including baroque works as well as Grainger and Rutter, on 20 November at All Saints Church, Marlow.

### Musical events organised by U3A Theatre Group:



Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 7.30 Royal Philharmonic Orchestra concert at Swan Theatre, High Wycombe. Programme as above. Averil has reserved some tickets for this. Cost £22 (concession). Will those who are interested please confirm with Averil at the next Music group meeting with payment (cheques payable to Marlow and District U3A). If you won't be at the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July, please phone Averil on 01628 472186.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November English National Ballet performing Romeo & Juliet at Milton Keynes. Matinee performance. Cost £23 including coach.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November Grimethorpe Colliery Band at Swan Theatre, High Wycombe 3pm  
Cost £19.50 per ticket.

Booking details for the November events as detailed under Theatre Group entry in the main U3A newsletter. All are welcome: you don't need to be a 'member' of the Theatre Group.

### **2010 Autumn Jazz Weekend**

22nd - 25th Oct 2010 at The Shanklin Hotel, Isle of Wight ([www.shanklinhotel.co.uk](http://www.shanklinhotel.co.uk)). One of the Island's finest hotels presents 4 days of luxury with top class jazz each evening. Half board Friday dinner to Monday breakfast from £169 inc. car ferry and all jazz sessions. Full details are in the 20<sup>th</sup> Newsletter.

Contact Ann Mary Ware, Tel: 01494 523231 or email [annware@sky.com](mailto:annware@sky.com).

Happy listening!

Brian (484099, [brian.humphrey2@ntlworld.com](mailto:brian.humphrey2@ntlworld.com)) and Keith (891507, [keithrachel@hotmail.com](mailto:keithrachel@hotmail.com))

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>

## Marlow U3A Music Appreciation Group

### What we have done so far or scheduled, Oct 2008 – Dec 2010

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Oct 2008	Introduction and Questionnaire
Nov 2008	Haydn, Mozart and William Hayes
Dec 2008	Christmas/Winter Music: Renaissance to 20th century, plus Russian music, Vivaldi, and Handel's <i>Messiah</i>
Jan 2009	Renaissance music 1500-1625 Beethoven symphonies
Feb 2009	Chinese music (mostly classical) Brahms: <i>Academic Festival Overture</i> and Violin Concerto
March 2009	Musical families: Bach, Linley, Hayes, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Lloyd Webber Wagner: orchestral music
Apr 2009	Animals, birds and insects in music (with optional quiz) Easter music
May 2009	Beethoven: Piano Concerto No.4 and Symphony No.7 Tchaikovsky: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , <i>Rococo Variations</i>
June 2009	Johann Nepomuk Hummel Early Jazz
July 2009	Aram Khachaturian Jazz 1920-1940
Aug 2009	No meeting
Sept 2009	Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto 2 Rachmaninov Piano Concerto 2
Oct 2009	Talking Brass
Nov 2009	Sir Hubert Parry: His Rise to National Prominence Krommer Rodrigo
Dec 2009	Christmas music (and seasonal monologue/comedy duo) Sibelius: Violin Concerto Finzi: <i>Magnificat</i> Sir Arthur Bliss: <i>Things to Come</i>

Jan 2010	Max Bruch The Clarinet
Feb 2010	The Russian Five (Balakirev, Cui, Borodin, Rimsky Korsakov, Mussorgsky) Schubert
March 2010	Sir Arnold Bax A Brief History of the Classical Guitar
April 2010	English Classical Gems 1750-1999 (Boyce, Parry, Butterworth, Elgar, McCartney and Arnold) The English Jazz Revival 1947 onwards
May 2010	Sir Arthur Sullivan The G&S operettas, and a World Premiere!
June 2010	Debussy and the Impressionist Movement Glière, Glazunov and the Russian revolution
July 2010	The early years of American classical music - 1830-1899 (Gottschalk, Chadwick, MacDowell, Foote, Beach, Sousa and Joplin) “Playing the Cello”
Aug 2010	No meeting planned at present
Sept 2010	Sibelius: <i>Finlandia</i> Elgar: <i>Enigma Variations</i> Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto The saxophone in modern jazz
Oct 2010	The Land of the Mountain and the Flood – music associated with Scotland
Nov 2010	The Sea, including Vaughan Williams: <i>A Sea Symphony</i> The Roaring Twenties
Dec 2010	Japanese Connections Compilation of diverse and/or light-hearted items.

**MARLOW U3A MAG QUESTIONNAIRE 2010**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. I suggest that we should have session(s) on the following composer(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. I would be interested in session(s) on the following instrument(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. I would be interested in session(s) on the following musician(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. I suggest the following other topic(s) for our sessions:
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_
5. I suggest the following guest speaker(s)/guest performer(s) for our sessions (please provide details of their specialist topics/skills):
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
6. I would like to present (or work with Brian or Keith to produce) a session on the following:
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
7. I would like to bring along the following music as part of one or more sessions:
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_
8. For the second half of our December 2010 session, I would like to present/perform the following unusual or light-hearted item:  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. I would like to hear the following item(s) again:  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. I have the following suggestion for a music-related excursion for the Group:  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. I have the following suggestions for improving our MAG sessions:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_