

Help the Aged Sussex Committee

in aid of

Honeywood House mini-bus appeal

Choral Concert

JSS Singers

Jan Spooner-Swabey, *conductor*

Esterhazy Chamber Choir

Russell Burton, *conductor*

Arundel Cathedral, Friday 24 October 2003

Programme

Songs of Farewell

Charles Hubert Parry

Interval—15 minutes

Holy Moses

Chris Hazell

Monday's Child

John Rutter

Irish Tune from County Derry

Percy Grainger

View me, Lord

Richard Lloyd

Songs of Farewell

Charles Hubert Parry

Most of us are familiar with Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848 – 1918) because of his better known pieces: *Jerusalem* and *I was glad*, which are staples of the English cathedral repertoire. Tonight, however, you will hear his *Songs of Farewell*, written in the last two years of his life. The First World War and the approach of his 70th birthday, which he referred to as ‘the last milestone’, affected him deeply. Herbert Howells said that the war was ‘a scourge that cast a devastating shadow over Parry’s mind and heart’. Out of these shadows came a set of six songs, sometimes melancholy, sometimes triumphant, which demonstrate a far more varied range of styles than we are used to hearing from Parry. As the songs progress, the choral writing becomes increasingly complex, with the final number, *Lord, let me know mine end*, using a double choir throughout.

Holy Moses

Chris Hazell

Published in the early 1970s by Novello, this popular cantata tells the story of Moses from bulrush days to the time when he led his people into the land of milk and honey. Nine songs, written for accompanied unison voices. Watch out for the galloping chase sequence!

Monday's Child

John Rutter

John Rutter is founder and director of the Cambridge Singers, and is a prolific composer producing original works and popular arrangements that increase the repertoire of choirs year by year. This little song, *Monday's Child*, is the opening piece from *Five Childhood Lyrics*, written in 1973. Writing about *Five Childhood Lyrics*, Rutter described them as “a kind of ‘homage’ to the world of children. I chose for my texts some of the rhymes and verses remembered from my earliest years, and set them to music as simply as I could.”

Irish Tune from County Derry

Percy Grainger

Percy Grainger's *Irish Tune from County Derry*, better known as ‘Danny Boy’ or the ‘Londonderry Air’, is one of many pieces the eccentric Australian-born composer wrote based on folk-tunes — and indeed one of the many arrangements that he made of this one tune. He collected and edited folk-music, and used colloquialisms in his editing; for example the instruction ‘louden’ for crescendo. (He also rather charmingly referred to the viola as the ‘middle fiddle’.) Friend of Busoni and pupil of Grieg, he made a terrifying recording of Grieg's piano concerto where accuracy is sacrificed for the sake of slightly demented but passionate enthusiasm – an attitude which emerged willy-nilly in much of his compositional style.

View me, Lord

Richard Lloyd

During National Service, Manchester-born Richard Lloyd trained as a tank gunner and a clerical officer, conducted a choir, and compiled a book on the restaurants of Paris. He has been involved in church music all his life, teaching, playing, composing and conducting. He was organist at Hereford Cathedral from 1966 and at Durham from 1974. These days he spends much of his time writing church music – except during the cricket season. *View me Lord* is a setting of a poem by Thomas Campion that presents the text without frills or complications and allows the message to speak through a memorable melodic line.

The JSS Singers

Formed in 1989 from senior pupils of Jan Spooner-Swabey, and based in Worthing, the JSS Singers have had much success in local and national competitions for both choral and music theatre work. There are two ensembles - junior and senior - comprising in all about 70 young performers, with ages ranging from 6 to 21.

The choirs rehearse once a week in a local church hall, and music theatre rehearsals take place at weekends wherever they can hire a suitable venue. The group has no permanent sponsorship or backing from any outside agency, and all activities are paid for by the performers or their parents, who also make all costumes and props in order to keep costs as low as possible. Despite these restrictions, the group has now been featured in the National Festival of Music for Youth on London's South Bank every year since 1992, winning a number of awards, including most recently an Outstanding Performance Award in 2000 and Highly Commended Performance Awards in 2001 and 2002. They have appeared three times in the Schools Prom at the Royal Albert Hall, and in 1997 opened a prestigious charity concert, starring Victoria Wood, at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. They have also performed in the Queen Elizabeth Hall and have appeared at the 1997 and 2001 Labour Party Conferences in Brighton.

The Esterházy Chamber Choir

The Esterházy Chamber Choir was founded in 1993 and is based in Lewes, East Sussex. Comprising around twenty four experienced singers from a wide variety of backgrounds, the choir aims to perform at a professional standard while remaining in the fine English tradition of amateur music-making.

The Choir's repertoire spans four centuries of sacred and secular music with an emphasis on *a cappella* singing. The Choir works with different conductors on a project basis matching their skills to the chosen repertoire.

As a registered charity, the group strives to make music more accessible to the young by offering free admission to accompanied children at concerts which the choir itself promotes - in particular its popular Christmas concert.

The choir receives support from Lewes Town Council and its 'Friends Association'. If you wish to become a Benefactor, Patron or Associate please contact the choir's Treasurer: Becky Clifford on 01732 840192. The choir welcomes approaches for audition from experienced singers. If you are interested please contact: Claire Carberry on 01273 488923.