

J.R. Davis

Corn Exchange - - Newbury

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 1948, at 7 p.m.

Christmas
**Serenade
Concert**

by the
NEWBURY CHORAL SOCIETY
assisted by members of the N.A.O.U.

Handel's "Acis and Galatea"

R. Vaughan William's "SERENADE TO MUSIC"

FULL CHORUS OF OVER 100 VOICES

ORCHESTRA LED BY MAY HOPE

Piano - - RUTH STAPLES

Soloists :

JOAN CROSS - - **Soprano**

HENRY BARNES - - **Tenor**

FREDERICK SHARP - - **Baritone**

(By permission of the Governors of Sadlers Wells)

Conductor :

John Russell

1. "SERENADE TO MUSIC" *R. Vaughan Williams (b. 1872)*

This lovely work, commissioned for Sir Henry Wood's Jubilee Concert in 1938, serves once more to refute the theory that music written to order is necessarily less valuable than that for which there is no menacing deadline.

Originally written for sixteen soloists and orchestra, it loses nothing by transference to chorus and such soloists as are available.

As it seems that this is the first performance of this work in Newbury an opportunity will be given for a second hearing at the end of the concert.

Shakespeare: "THE MERCHANT OF VENICE" Act V, Scene 1.

LORENZO: How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!
 Here will we sit and let the sounds of music
 Creep in our ears: soft stillness and the night
 Become the touches of sweet harmony.
Look how the floor of heaven
 Is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold:
 There's not the smallest orb that thou behold'st
 But in his motion like an angel sings,
 Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubins;
 Such harmony is in immortal souls;
 But whilst this muddy vesture of decay
 Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.

Enter Musicians

Come ho! and wake Diana with a hymn:
 With sweetest touches pierce your mistress' ear
 And draw her home with music.

JESSICA: I am never merry when I hear sweet music.

LORENZO: The reason is, your spirits are attentive:

 The man that hath no music in himself,
 Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,
 Is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils;
 The motions of his spirit are dull as night
 And his affections dark as Erebus:
 Let no such man be trusted.

PORTIA:Music! Hark!

NERISSA: It is your music, madam, of the house.

PORTIA:
 Methinks it sounds much sweeter than by day.

NERISSA: Silence bestows that virtue on it, madam.

PORTIA: How many things by season season'd are
 To their right praise and true perfection!
 Peace ho! the moon sleeps with Endymion
 And would not be awaked.

2. SERENATA : " ACIS AND GALATEA " Handel (1685-1759)

An early sojourn in Italy caused Handel, a German, to give to the London public a vast quantity of music in the Italian style. This charming serenade, with its legendary-pastoral story and "enchanted superficiality" is firmly based on various Italian models, and was commissioned by the Duke of Chandos in about 1720.

Galatea, an immortal sea-nymph, is in love with Acis, a shepherd, but is also wooed by Polyphemus, a lovable, romantic giant. In the course of a brisk but unequal fight for Galatea's hand, Acis is struck down and killed by a rock nonchalantly hurled by Polyphemus. Any discomfort that Acis may have experienced, however, is forgotten when Galatea, invoking her immortal powers, promotes him to the status of a god. The chorus, as Nymphs and Shepherds, add appropriate comments on the action.

Galatea	...	...	...	JOAN CROSS
Acis	...	...	...	HENRY BARNES
Polyphemus	...	...		FREDERICK SHARP

PART I.

Soprano and Chorus :	...	...	...	" O the pleasure of the plains !"
Recit. and Aria (Galatea)	...	...	...	" Hush, ye pretty warbling choir "
Aria (Acis)	...	!	...	" Where shall I seek the charming fair ?"
Recit. and Aria (Acis)	...	...	...	" Love in her eyes sits playing "
Recit. and Aria (Galatea)	...	...	...	" As when the dove laments her love "
Duet (Acis and Galatea) with Chorus	...	...	...	" Happy we !"

INTERVAL

PART II.

Chorus :	...	...	...	" Wretched lovers !"
Recit. and Aria (Polyphemus)	...	...	...	" O ruddier than the cherry !"
Recit. (Polyphemus)	...	...	...	" Whither, fairest, art thou running ?"
Aria (Polyphemus)	...	...	...	" Cease to beauty to be suing "
Recit. and Aria (Acis)	...	...	...	" Love sounds the Alarm "
Recit. and Trio	...	...	...	" The flocks shall leave the mountains "
Chorus :	...	...	...	" Mourn, all ye Muses "
Galatea and Chorus :	...	...	...	" Must I my Acis still bemoan ?"
Recit. and Aria (Galatea)	...	...	...	" Heart, the seat of soft delight "
Chorus :	...	...	...	" Galatea, dry thy tears "

3. " SERENADE TO MUSIC " R. Vaughan Williams
(Repeat performance)

NEWBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

President : Lord Teviot of Burghclere

The Newbury Choral Society was founded in 1884 under the conductorship of Mr. J. S. Liddle, and has for over 60 years promoted the art and production of choral singing in Newbury and the district. New members are always cordially welcomed, and should apply to the Secretary,

Mr. A. G. Sampson,
18, Westgate Road, Newbury.

The Society expresses its grateful thanks to the members of the N.A.O.U. for their valued services rendered over a long period of years ; and to its honorary members for their continued interest and support.