

J.R. Davis

CORN EXCHANGE :: NEWBURY

Wednesday, December 10th, 1958

at 7 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

by the

NEWBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

assisted by

NEWBURY STRING PLAYERS

Soloist:

GORDON CLINTON Baritone

Conductor - JOHN RUSSELL

Leader of the Orchestra - CLAIRE SIMPSON

Accompanist to the Society - ETHEL STRINGER

"ORPHEUS"

Act 2

Gluck (1714-1798)

Orpheus — Gordon Clinton

Orpheus, distraught by the death of his beloved wife, Eurydice, ventures into the underworld in search of her. But he must first pass the dread guardians of the gates, Cerberus the three-headed dog and the Furies. According to the legend, his beautiful singing softens all hearts, and he finds Eurydice among the Blessed Spirits. United again with her, he begins to lead her back to Earth.

Motet: "Valiant-for-Truth"

R. Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

The words are taken from the passage in Pilgrim's Progress describing Mr. Valiant-for-Truth's call to eternal life. They are sung now as a tribute to the memory of a great composer who has given this and all other choral societies so great a store of beautiful music to sing.

"So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side."

"A SUMMER NIGHT"

Robert Still

For Baritone, Chorus and Orchestra.
(first performance)

Gordon Clinton

This setting of Matthew Arnold's elegiac poem portrays admirably the introspective, philosophic mood of the words. Its unusual harmonic idiom has been at once a challenge and an adventure for the Newbury Choral Society, to whom it is dedicated.

Robert Still began his career as Music Master at Eton College, and conductor of Windsor Operatic Society, who performed an opera by him in 1938. In the following year the "Ballet Trois Arts," of which he was assistant conductor, included in their repertoire a ballet based by him on Elizabethan manuscripts. After war service he resolved to devote himself entirely to composition. London performances include a string quartet and several songs; his first Symphony, played last year at the Royal Festival Hall by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Richard Austin, and his Overture "The Ballad of the Bladebone Inn," played there later by the Pro Arte Orchestra, also conducted by Austin.

Robert Still is married, with four children, and has made his home at Bucklebury.

Recordings: Sonata No. 2 for Viola and Piano
 Quintet for three Flutes, Violin and Cello } ARGO RG 74

NEWBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

President : Eustace Roskill, Esq. Q.C.

The Newbury Choral Society was founded in 1884 under the conductorship of Mr. J. S. Liddle, and has for over 74 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 Newbury Amateur Orchestral Union and Newbury String Players for their valued services rendered over a long period of years; and to its honorary members for their continued interest and support.

The Society expresses its grateful thanks for the response to its appeal for Vice Presidents. A full list will be published in our Spring Programme.