

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

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“BLEST PAIR OF SIRENS” — for eight-part chorus and orchestra
Sir Hubert Parry

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“THE CANTERBURY PILGRIMS” — Sir George Dyson

When Chaucer wrote his “Canterbury Pilgrims,” two hundred years had passed since this Pilgrimage had become an act of piety following the assassination of Thomas Becket, the Archbishop, in his own Cathedral by some well-meaning but misguided knights. As the years went on, the Pilgrimage lost a good deal of its original dedication, and became just as much a sight-seeing holiday for a wide cross-section of the English community, rich and poor, sacred and profane, saintly and worldly. Sir George Dyson has taken his words from the Prologue to Chaucer’s chronicle. In the music we hear the busy start from the Tabard Inn in Southwark, and then a picture in sound of each of several members of the Pilgrimage. As can be seen from the list of participants, they are a generously varied crew, and the music is written with consummate skill to depict them. As the work ends, the Knight is beginning the first of the tales with which the company in turn sought to beguile the days of travelling. The gathering disappears over the horizon

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It is of great interest to note that “The Canterbury Pilgrims,” so firmly established in the repertoire these days, was given its second performance by Newbury Choral Society shortly after its first hearing, with the composer conducting.

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| 1. | PROLOGUE | ... | ... | ... | ... | Tenor and Chorus |
| 2. | THE KNIGHT | ... | ... | ... | | Chorus |
| 3. | THE SQUIRE | ... | ... | ... | | Tenor |
| 4. | THE NUN | ... | ... | ... | ... | Soprano and Chorus |
| 5. | THE MONK | ... | ... | ... | ... | Baritone |
| 6. | THE CLERK OF OXENFORD | ... | | | | Chorus |
| 7. | THE HABERDASHER AND HIS
FRATERNITY. THE MERCHANT | | | | | Tenor and Chorus |

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INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES

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| 8. | THE SERGEANT OF THE LAW.
THE FRANKLIN | ... | ... | ... | | Baritone |
| 9. | THE SHIPMAN | ... | ... | ... | | Chorus |
| 10. | THE DOCTOR OF PHYSIC | ... | | | | Tenor |
| 11. | THE WIFE OF BATH | ... | ... | | | Soprano |
| 12. | THE POOR PARSON OF A TOWN | | | | | Chorus |
| 13. | L' ENVOI | ... | ... | ... | ... | Tenor, Baritone and Chorus |

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The Newbury Choral Society has now completed its 77th year. It was founded in 1884 by the late Mr. J. S. Liddle, and has continued to promote the furtherance of good Choral Music.

The Secretary will be pleased to receive applications from new members, who are cordially invited.

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