

M. Davis

NEWBURY CHORAL SOCIETY
(80th Anniversary Concert)

C E L E B R I T Y
C O N C E R T

SATURDAY APRIL 3rd 1965

O W E N
B R A N N I G A N
(Bass)

CONDUCTOR JOHN RUSSELL
DEPUTY CONDUCTOR AND ACCOMPANIST
GILLIAN LOVETT

Full Chorus of over 100 voices

Te Deum Laudamus Purcell (1659 - 1695)
composed for St. Cecilia's Day, 1694.

Conductor: John Russell.
Accompanist: Gillian Lovett.

OWEN BRANNIGAN

Liebeslieder (Songs of Love) Brahms (1833 - 1897)
Piano Duet: Gillian Lovett and John Russell.

The eighteen Liebeslieder waltzes are written for piano duet (four hands on one piano) and any number of voices, from quartet to full chorus. They are the most popular and charming of Brahms's works for domestic music-making, and find their way naturally into a "family evening" such as this.

INTERVAL.

Motet: Hear my Prayer Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)
Soprano: JOY HACKETT.

Conductor: Gillian Lovett.
Accompanist: John Russell.

The enormous popularity of this piece should not be allowed to blind us to its beauty and freshness. It is Mendelssohn at his most expressive, and reveals to the full his sensitive response to English words. Though indelibly associated with choirboy tone, the solo was originally written for Soprano, and we welcome Joy Hackett, who has sung in the chorus and who now makes her home in Newbury, to sing it with us.

OWEN BRANNIGAN

Ode: Blest Pair of Sirens (At a Solemn Music)

Parry (1848 - 1918)

Conductor: John Russell.

Accompanist: Gillian Lovett.

Described by Vaughan Williams, "as fine as any eight-part choral writing either on this side of the Channel or the other" this splendid work was given one of its very earliest performances by Newbury Choral Society, with the composer conducting.

The National Anthem.

Programme Note

OWEN BRANNIGAN

Owen Brannigan is widely regarded as Britain's most outstanding bass singer, and is beloved by audiences wherever he travels. His superlative voice and virtuosity throughout an extensive and all-embracing repertoire of opera, oratorio and song have endeared him to countless listeners and have rewarded him with an international reputation rarely achieved in our musical life and history.

Owen Brannigan has made many famed classical recordings which amply justify his amazing musical versatility. These include Handel's Messiah and "Acis and Galatea" conducted by Sir Adrian Boult, Benjamin Britten's "Peter Grimes" and "Albert Herring" which the composer conducts himself, Offenbach's "The Tales of Hoffman" under Sir Thomas Beecham, and "The Beggar's Opera" and six complete Gilbert and Sullivan opera recordings with Sir Malcolm Sargent. In addition, Owen Brannigan is a champion and recitalist of English song in all its many facets and is an acknowledged authority and collector of the Folk Song of his native North Country, which accounts for his having no less than forty recordings of Folk Song in current world lists.

Television and Radio both at home and abroad demand much of Owen Brannigan's time and attention, though in spite of his many varied activities he still finds sufficient time to be President of institutions like the North East Association of the Arts and many other societies.

Owen Brannigan stems from Annitsford, near Newcastle in Northumberland, and is probably the only singer to have a street named after him in his lifetime: in Annitsford there is an "Owen Brannigan Drive". He is also a Fellow of the Guildhall School of Music, where he had earlier studied, and is the holder of the Papal Cross, which he received from Pope Pius XII for his services to Catholic Charities. In the New Year Honours List for 1964 Owen Brannigan was awarded an O.B.E. for his services to English singing.