

J.R. Davis

NEWBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1884)

President: THE HON. SIR EUSTACE ROSKILL

SATURDAY, 27th MARCH, 1971, at 7 p.m.

CORN EXCHANGE, NEWBURY

**SPRING
CONCERT**

EILEEN POULTER – Soprano

JOHN HEDDLE NASH – Bass

FULL PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRA

LEADER:

MARTIN HUGHES

CONDUCTOR:

JOHN RUSSELL

BENEDICITE, for Soprano Solo, Chorus and Orchestra
Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The Leith Hill Music Festival, Dorking, was more fortunate than most in having as its conductor-in-chief a great English composer. Among the many robust and colourful works written by Vaughan Williams for his combined local choirs is the *Benedicite*, published in 1929. The words are from the Prayer Book version of the Canticle into which is inserted a poem by John Austin (1613-1669), *The Song of the Three Holy Children*.

J.R.

INTERVAL — 15 MINUTES

REQUIEM *Brahms (1833-1897)*

This "German Requiem" is non-liturgical; it offers no prayers for the departed spirit, nor does it include any of the traditional text. Brahms, who knew his Bible very well indeed, though he did not seem to subscribe to any formal pattern of worship, gives us instead a series of musical meditations on mourning, the fear of dying, the sustaining power of faith, and the blessedness of those who die in the Lord.

As a lonely person, not much given to revealing his personal feelings to the world at large except through his music, Brahms did not leave us any particular guide as to his reasons for the Requiem. Historically, his mind and feelings could have been occupied by the death of his mother or by that of his adored fellow-composer Robert Schumann. We do not know. What we are certain of is his Saxon dread of the grave, his pre-occupation with man's mortality, and his courageous belief in the heavenly peace.

Brahms's music in this work alternates between the beatific and the dreadful of death. At the end of it, however, we are assured of the nature of our ending, "Blessed are they who die in the name of the Lord."

J.R.

BRAHMS' REQUIEM

1. CHORUS

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

Who goeth forth and weepeth, and beareth precious seed, shall come again rejoicing, and bring his sheaves with him.

2. CHORUS

Behold, all flesh is as the grass, and all the glory of man is as the flower of the field. The grass is withered, and the flower thereof is fallen.

Now therefore be patient, O my brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. See how the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, till it receive in time the early and the latter rain. So be ye patient.

But yet the Lord's word standeth for evermore.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return again, and come with singing unto Zion. Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads always, gladness and joy everlasting shall they obtain, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

3. BARITONE SOLO AND CHORUS

Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days: let me know how frail I am, that I be made sure how long I have to live.

Surely Thou hast made my days as an handbreadth before Thee: and my lifetime is as nothing to Thee: verily every man living is altogether vanity.

For surely a man walketh as a shadow: and he disquieteth himself in vain, yea, all in vain: his riches, he knoweth not who shall gather them.

Now, Lord, what then do I hope for? My hope is in Thee.

But the righteous souls are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them.

4. CHORUS

How lovely are Thy dwellings fair, O Lord of hosts!

My soul longeth, yea longeth and fainteth for the courts of the
Lord.

My heart and flesh ring out their joy unto the living God.

Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house: they praise Thee,
Lord, evermore.

5. SOPRANO SOLO AND CHORUS

Ye now have your sorrow: but I will again behold you, and your
heart shall rejoice, and your joy shall no man take from you.
Thee will I comfort, as one whom his mother comforts.

Now behold me, ye see how for a little while labour and toil were
my lot, yet have I found much rest.

6. BARITONE SOLO AND CHORUS

For we have here no abiding city, but yet we seek that to come.

Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we
shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,
at the sound of the last trumpet: for behold, the trumpet shall
sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall
be changed.

Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is
swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O
death, where is thy sting?

Worthy art Thou, Lord, of praise and glory, honour and power:
for Thou, Almighty, hast created all things, and because of
Thy will they were, and were created.

7. CHORUS

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth:
even so, saith the Spirit: for they rest from their labours; and
their works follow after them.

The National Federation of Music Societies, to which this Society is
affiliated, supports this concert with funds provided by the Arts Council
of Great Britain.

The Newbury Choral Society acknowledges financial assistance from the
Southern Arts Association, the Newbury Borough Council, and the
Berkshire County Council.

NEWBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1884)

President : THE HON. SIR EUSTACE ROSKILL

Vice-Presidents :

Miss R. Acland
Mr. and Mrs. J. Addis
Mr. N. Allin, C.B.E.
Mrs. J. Almond
Mrs. P. Barnes
Mrs. F. Becheley-Crundall
Miss M. K. Burton
Mrs. G. E. Buxton
Mrs. H. H. Coghlan
Mr. R. G. Cooper
Miss G. J. S. Corsar
Miss K. V. Cox
Mrs. W. F. Delves
Miss J. E. Denis de Vitre
Mr. H. P. Fitchew
Mrs. B. J. Foster
Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Fry
Mrs. A. Game
Mr. A. Grange
Mrs. H. L. Hadden
Lt.-Col. A. R. Hamilton
Mr. J. H. Hole
Mrs. R. Hue-Williams
Mrs. F. M. James

Mrs. J. Kennedy
Miss L. Leigh
Hon. Miss M. Littleton
Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Lovett
Miss G. Lovett
Mrs. A. J. Marshall
Mrs. C. M. Mellor
Mr. W. Merrick
Miss E. Metcalfe
Mrs. E. Midwinter
Mrs. N. Morison
Mr. D. Parker Bowles
Mr. J. Pavier
Mrs. E. Rayner
Mrs. E. G. Rice
Mr. T. Roberts
Mr. A. G. Sampson *
Air-Marshal Sir Robert Saundby
Mrs. W. H. Schlesinger
Mrs. D. S. Smeeton
Mrs. K. Shaw-Taylor
Miss P. Waterhouse-Adshead
Mr. T. A. Young

* *Honorary Life Member*

Chairman : Lt.-Col. A. R. HAMILTON

Accompanist : GILLIAN LOVETT

Hon. Librarians : Miss J. EDMED and Mrs. G. L. WOOD

Executive Committee :

Miss G. Carter
Mrs. F. A. Key
Miss D. J. James
Mrs. J. H. Lovett

Mrs. S. J. Wilson
Lt.-Col. A. R. Hamilton (Chairman)
Mr. N. Morison
Mr. C. Wheeler

Social Committee :

Miss C. C. Cramp
Miss L. E. Curtis
Mrs. D. L. Frith
Mrs. F. M. Gotelee
Lt.-Col. A. R. Hamilton

Mr. R. Hills
Miss R. Lewis
Mr. N. Morison
Mrs. M. E. Stanley
Miss J. Wildish

Secretary :

Mr. G. M. ABBOTT
37 Montgomery Road
Newbury

Treasurer :

Mrs. J. PAVIER
7 Montgomery Road
Newbury