

NEWBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

(affiliated to the National Federation of Music Societies)

Conductor: *Jonathan Finney*

HUBERT PARRY I WAS GLAD
organ: Norman Wilson

MOZART OVERTURE TO IDOMENEO (arr. Sheen)

EXCERPTS FROM COSI FAN TUTTI (arr. Wendt)

Una donna quindici anni
Secondate, aurette amiche
E amore un ladroncello
Fortunato l'uom
Newbury Wind Ensemble

Louise Clarke, Jane Shillam (oboes), Catherine Haddon, Andrew Bush (clarinets), Geoffrey Shillan, Gabrielle Seth Smith (bassoons), John Bryant, John Alexander (horns) with Ian Brown, Jimmy MacDonald (horns), Jeremy Wood, Howard Rowntree (trumpets), Jonathan Bunt, Barry Jones, Tim Armitage (trombones).

Interval 20 minutes Coffee will be available in St. Nicolas Hall

ANTON BRUCKNER MASS IN E MINOR

PARRY Sir Charles Hubert Hastings (1848-1918) I was glad

One of the earliest musical influences on Parry was the great anthem writer Samuel Sebastian Wesley who taught at Parry's preparatory school at Twyford near Winchester and encouraged him to write hymns and chants. Nevertheless after leaving Oxford with a degree in music, Parry yielded to parental wishes and worked for a short time at Lloyds in London. Composing however became increasingly important to him and he eventually abandoned commerce for music, initially writing mainly for chamber ensembles.

It was not however until 1880 that Parry made a mark on the English musical establishment with the first performance of his choral work 'Scenes from Prometheus Unbound' at Gloucester Festival. In retrospect this work can be regarded as a major landmark in the resurgence of English choral music which had largely been in the doldrums since the death of Purcell in 1695. Twentieth century English music owes much more than is realised to Parry and his contemporary Stanford both of whom provided the foundations for twentieth century British composers such as Vaughan Williams, Bliss, Holst, Britten and Walton.

Today Parry's vast musical output is both neglected and undervalued and he is remembered for only a few of his choral works which include the masterpieces Blest Pair of Sirens and the Songs of Farewell. The anthem 'I was glad' was written for the coronation of Edward VII in 1902 and has been sung at coronations ever since.

ANTON BRUCKNER (1824-1896) Mass in E minor

Much of Bruckner's life was spent as an organist and it was while he was cathedral organist in Linz, Austria, that he wrote his three great masses of which the E minor Mass was probably the third. Scored for eight part mixed chorus and a wind band of two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, four horns, two trumpets and three trombones this unusual work is one of the great choral masterpieces of the nineteenth century.

Wind bands have always been an important feature in continental European secular village life but they were not encouraged in church and indeed the Catholic Church had always preferred plainsong in its various modes to orchestrated masses. From the late sixteenth century onwards however orchestrated settings of the mass, often in a rather operatic style had crept into use. In 1867 however Franz Xaver Witt, a Catholic priest and a fervent Palestrinian, founded the Caecilienverein movement in Germany which was dedicated to the 'improvement' of Catholic Church music. The Caecilians (as the movements supporters were known) placed an emphasis on

plainsong and the gregorian chant and attempted to exclude the music of the eighteenth century Viennese school (and as far as possible orchestras) from church music.

By nature Bruckner was not a supporter of this musically retrograde if ecclesiastically popular movement but he was a devout Catholic and moreover a cathedral organist. It was therefore almost politically expedient that he appeared to do service to the Caecilian cause. His solution was the Mass in E minor, a work which while it concentrates on the plainsong elements of church music and avoids the theatrical orchestration found for example in the masses of Haydn and Mozart, is still conscious of the great musical changes which were taking place during Bruckner's lifetime. The chorus while it may sing in Phrygian mode is gently guided by the wind orchestra (relegated to a background but maverick role) through a progressive harmony into remote keys which would never have been countenanced by mediaeval polyphonism. This work must have caused much gnashing of teeth among Witt and his Caecilians!

Written in 1866 and dedicated to Bruckner's mentor, Bishop Rudigier, who had commissioned it, the E minor Mass received its first performance at the consecration of the new votive chapel in Linz cathedral in 1869.

NEWBURY WIND ENSEMBLE The Newbury Wind Octet was formed to explore the extensive repertoire of 'Harmoniemusik' written for the wind ensembles that were so popular towards the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth century. In Vienna in particular, the nobility vied with each other in maintaining wind ensembles which usually consisted of pairs of oboes, clarinets, bassoons and horns. In tonight's concert the Newbury Octet are joined by additional horns, trumpets and trombones.

Transcriptions for wind bands of popular operas of the day were greatly in demand and the number and diversity of the arrangements were a reflection of the composers success. Tonight's concert includes arrangements for wind ensemble from two of Mozarts operas, Idomeneo and Cosi fan Tutti.

NEWBURY CHORAL SOCIETY FORTHCOMING CONCERTS 1991

St. Nicolas Church: 7:30 p.m.

April 25 1992 Brahms: Song of Destiny
Hawse: Wedding at Cana

June 27 1992 Dvorak: Mass in D
Mozart: Dixit Dominus and Magnificat

TO ALL LOVERS OF CHORAL MUSIC

Become a Friend of Newbury Choral Society. For a minimum annual subscription of £5.00 you will receive an annual newsletter, advance notice of concerts, invitations to all the Choral Societies social events and you will know that your subscription is being used to ensure the future of the Choral Society. Do become a Friend and help us to continue the great British tradition of choral music. Please send your subscription with your name and address to: Newbury Choral Society, Highwood Farm, Long Lane, Newbury RG16 9LB. Cheques should be made payable to Newbury Choral Society.

Why not join us for our Barn Dance at Wormestall Hall, St. Bartholomews School on December 7th? Dancing, Fish and Chip supper, licensed bar. Only £6.00 and a great evening out!
Further information on Newbury 32918.

Are you bored on Monday? Does the weekend seem a long way off?

Solution Join us on Monday evenings at 7:15 in the United Reformed Church Hall, Cromwell Place, Newbury (opposite Marks and Spencer). Young singers are particularly welcome. Rehearsals begin again on January 6 1992.

Programme notes: Diana Knill

Sponsored by Newbury District Council