
MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S

DULWICH ORCHESTRA

Conductor

STEPHEN WHITTAKER

Leader

LYNN COOK

Solo Cello

JOHN KIRBY

Saturday November 20th 1993 at 7.45p.m.

Admission by Programme £4.00 • Concession £2.50

PROGRAMME

GABRIEL FAURE (1845-1924): Suite "Folleas et Melisande"

1. Prelude, quasi adagio 2. Andantino quasi allegretto
3. Sicillienne: allegretto molto moderato 4. Molto adagio

The strange and disturbing love story of Pelleas and Melisande by the Belgian playwright Maeterlinck had profound influence on Debussy who turned to the composer's incidental music to the play. He wrote a typically French composer, was actually written for a London production in 1898 for the English actress Mrs Patrick Campbell.

The first, second and fourth pieces in this 1909 suite come from this original music, and Faure added the uniquely beautiful Sicillienne as the third movement. The suite is generally regarded as his orchestral masterpiece the slow fourth movement (representing the death of Melisande) reaching a symphonic intensity.

CAMILLE SAINT-SAENS (1835-1921): Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor

Allegro non troppo - Allegretto con moto - Tempo Primo

Saint-Saens could be called "the Mendelssohn of French music", sharing romantic grace, fluency and knack of using classical forms in an updated concertos, of which the Cello Concerto No. 1 is perhaps the most popular.

Although played as one continuous piece, the work is in three distinct sections corresponding to the conventional three movements. The attractive melodic material of the first is skillfully deployed between old and various instruments of the orchestra: the second is a kind of old-fashioned dance on muted strings, accompanied lyrically by the soloist and building to a whispser, until the orchestra reintroduces the optimistic theme of the work and ushers in the vigorous finale, ending in triumph.

Soloist: John Kirby (Cello)

CHARLES GOUNOD (1818-1893): Little Symphony for Winds

1. Adagio et Allegro 2. Andante Cantabile 3. Scherzo 4. Finale

Gounod was the dominant figure in French opera during the mid-nineteenth century, producing his masterpiece "Faust" in 1859. But in a strange way he is remembered for his instrumental music. He wrote an excellent string quartet in his seventies completed by the end of his life in 1895.

The "Little Symphony" is scored for flute, oboes, clarinets and bassoons, and has the character of a elegant conversation between close friends. It is in the conventional four movements, by turns lively, lyrical, robust and high spirited.

EMMANUEL CHABRIER (1841-1894): Suite Pastorale

1. Idyll 2. Village Dance 3. In the woods 4. Waltz Scherzo

Chabrier was a larger than life popular figure in Parisian cultural life, a friend of impressionist painters such as Monet, Renoir and Cezanne. His music was very much a tone painter himself, most famously in his brilliant sound portrait of Spain, "Espana".

The four movements of the "Pastoral Suite" are equally attractive and colourful pictures of the French provinces, orchestrated from his "Ten Picturesque Pieces" for piano. The opening "Idyll" has a serene, fluid charm, while the second movement "Village Dance" has a boisterous flavour, in the minor key. "In The Woods" is a gently rocking lullaby, and the suite ends with a delightful rustic waltz.

MEMBERS OF THE ORCHESTRA.

Violins.

Lynn Cook (leader)
Maïse Hippertson
Don McGoown

Joanne Beale
Eaine Galloway
Elizabeth Cleary
Dennis Sullivan
Liz Martin
Liz Martin

Julia Gabriel
Paula Martin
Nigel Stephens
Dennis Reynolds
Virginia Kennedy
Toby Hawk@s
Frank Dalquen

Viola.

Roger Mundy
Phillip McKenna
Maureen Montrose
George Fuller

Timpani.

Chris Kimber

Cellos.

Sara Heathcote-Skinner
Catharine Badger
Katy Hawkes

Alison Rose
Hugh Lockington
Mike Bailey

Double Bass.

Arthur Pennie
John Hutchins
Carole Hibbert

Flutes.

Julia Wilson
Emily Toscano-Heighton
Jane Couchier (Piccolo)

Oboes.

Graham Ruffell
Emma Harrison

Clarinets.

Sue Best
Duncan McInnes

Bassoons.

Giles Brindley
Jeremy Crump

Trumpets.

Derek Cozens
Tim Collett

Trombones.

Heleen Beilly
Michael Brooks
David Nicol

Horns.

Joe Wright
Julia
Stephen Ames
Mike Henderson

Programme Notes by Lynn Cook.

JOHN KIRBY - SOLOIST

John is a programme writer's nightmare, being very coy about his notable achievements. But as far as we can piece together, he was trained at the Guildhall School of Music, a pupil of that great teacher Leonard Stein. He has a wealth of solo and ensemble experience, and has appeared regularly with the BBC Orchestras. His versatility is admired, being as much at home with early and Baroque music as with the romantic and modern repertoire, and he has himself become one of London's most successful and sought-after teachers.