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Saturday 25th November 1989

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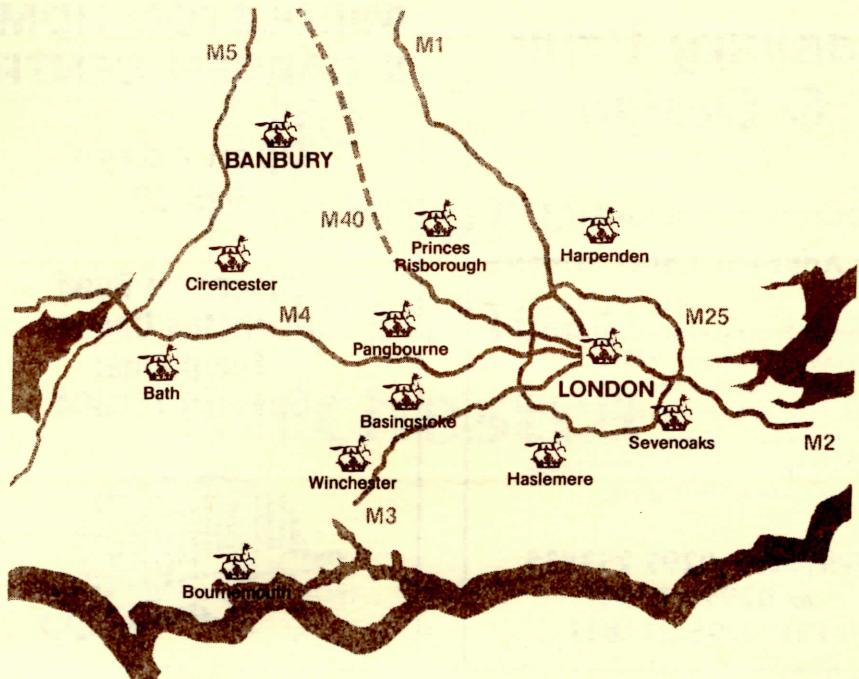
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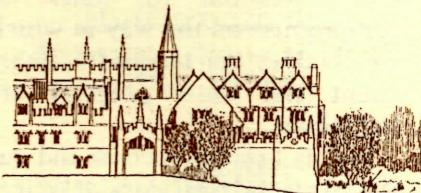
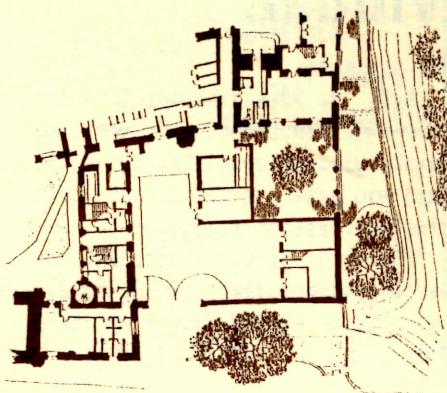
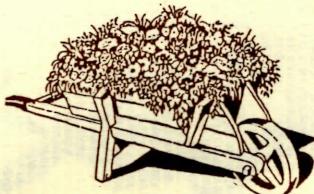
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The Banbury Symphony Orchestra

(Leader - Geoffrey Kent)

Conductor
Raymond Head

PROGRAMME

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Wagner | - | The Flying Dutchman |
| Holst | - | The Mystic Trumpeter
soprano solo: Betham Dudley |
| M. Arnold | - | Tam O'Shanter |
| Dvorak | - | New World Symphony |

North Oxfordshire Technical College, Broughton Road, Banbury,
7.30 p.m. Saturday 25th November 1989

Wagner (1813-1883) - Overture: The Flying Dutchman

This work was completed in 1843, one of the first of Wagner's many operatic successes. The overture paraphrases the opera and describes the vain longing of the Dutchman for a woman who would bring him salvation from torment. For years he had sailed the oceans, gloomy and hopeless, battered by raging storms. He seems condemned to eternal wandering, and despises the jovial sounds of sailors on other ships. In utter misery he cries out for deliverance. At last a woman (Senta) shows him compassion and sacrifices herself for him. He dies as his ship is engulfed by a storm. Yet he rises from the waves led by Senta's hand to the "radiant dawn of love" as Wagner describes it.

Holst (1874-1934) - The Mystic Trumpeter Soprano: Bethan Dudley

Holst like Elgar only achieved fame in his mid forties with works like The Planets (1914-16), and the Hymn of Jesus (1917). The success of these works has overshadowed earlier pieces like The Mystic Trumpeter (1904) and the opera Savitri (1908), both of which are of major importance. The Mystic Trumpeter was well received at its first performance but curiously was only published this year.

The work is a setting of words by the visionary American poet Walt Whitman who had an enormous influence at the turn of the century. In broad declamatory style Whitman asks the trumpeter to conjure up pictures of the state of humanity. There are visions of the brotherhood of man where East and West meet, and in which men and women are united in selfless love. By contrast the trumpeter can also show pictures of human misery, war, storms, cheerless images of the hurt and oppressed "the wrongs of the ages". After this the poet asks the trumpeter to renew his faith, to give him a more optimistic picture of humanity of the future "a hymn to the universal God from universal man.....Joy, in freedom, worship love! Joy in the ecstasy of life, enough to merely be, enough to breathe".

Such exhortation brought an impassioned response from the 30 year old composer, a composer "filled with aspirations high, unformed ideals, waves, oceans musical" (from a stanza not set by Holst)

Malcolm Arnold (b.1921) Tam O'Shanter

This British composer has composed some of this century's most enjoyable music. He began life as a trumpeter with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and came to public attention as a composer in 1943 and has since composed concertos, symphonies, chamber music and film music including that for Bridge Over the River Kwai. Tam O'Shanter has become immensely popular since it was written in 1955. Robert Burns famous poem of the same name inspired the piece. In the poem Tam has been drinking heavily in a pub and is warned not to go home through the forest in the dark. It is possible he would meet some witches celebrating their sabbath. Undeterred he goes out in the storm and sees the witches dancing. One beautiful witch catches his attention and he cries out "well done cutty sark" (Scottish for a scantily clad woman). The witches are shocked by the intrusion and then pursue him. He and his horse just manage to escape but in the process the horse loses his tail. This is brilliantly depicted in the music with drunken bassoons, rollicking trombones, Scottish reels and hints of the witches sabbath from Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique.

INTERVAL

Dvorak (1841-1904)

Symphony No.9 in E Minor ("New World")

1. Adagio.Allegro Molto
2. Largo
3. Molto Vivace
4. Allegro con fuoco

During the years 1892-5 Dvorak spent 3 years in the United States, as Head of the National Conservatory, New York. It was an important move for this Bohemian composer since it introduced him to the music of the American Negroes and Indians. As a result, it has been suggested, that the symphony written in 1893 contains "Negro" and "Indian" music but this in fact is an error which Dvorak endeavoured to clear up at the time. While preparations were in hand for a Berlin performance in 1900, Dvorak wrote to the conductor saying.-"leave out that nonsense about my having made us of original American melodies. I have composed only in the spirit of such American national melodies". As he said himself, no matter where he was: America, England or elsewhere, all he could write was Bohemian music. This apart, Dvorak produced a great work, powerful and tempestuous; a serene melody in the second movement and plenty of dancing Czech syncopations.

Notes by Raymond Head

BETHAN DUDLEY (SOPRANO)

Bethan Dudley read English and Music at Birmingham University and since 1987 has studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Kenneth Bowen, David Owen Norris, Robert Tear, Dame Joan Hammond, Arleen Auger, Sir Colin Davis and Sir Geraint Evans. Since 1987 she has won awards from the W.J.E.C., the Cornwall Trust, the Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation of Switzerland and the Countess of Munster. At the R.A.M., she has also won numerous prizes including the Worshipful Company of Musicians Medal. In 1988 Bethan won the coveted Blue Riband at the National Eisteddfod of Wales and the Froncysyllte Young Welsh Singer of the Year. Earlier this year at the Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Competition, she received the Baroness Ravensdale Award.

Bethan has appeared in oratorios, operas and concerts in Europe and Australia, and will return to Australia and visit the U.S.A. and Canada for concert tours in 1990. Recently Bethan gave her Barbican debut in Vaughan Williams' Serenade to Music, conducted by Sir Charles Groves, as part of the Laurence Olivier Musical Tribute Gala Concert. Next week she will appear in Berlin as soloist for the Deutsche Bundespost combined choirs. In Wales, Bethan appears regularly on TV and Radio, and her first solo recording of German and Welsh songs is available on the Sain label.

BANBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERTS 1990

Saturday 17th March 1990
7.30pm

St Mary's Church
Adderbury

Beethoven - Leonora No 3
Tchaikovsky - Violin Concerto
Soloist: Christopher Windass

Smetana - Vltava
David Pope - New Work
Foulds - Indian Suite

Saturday 23rd June 1990
7.30pm

St Mary's Church
Adderbury

Mozart - Idomeneo
Bridge - Summer
Elgar - Cello Concerto
Soloist: Thomas Waddups

Parry - Symphony No.4

Please note that for those interested in Chamber Music, the 'Friends of Music in Adderbury' organises excellent concerts at St Mary's Church in Adderbury. For further information please contact Barbara Minter, The Tythe Barn, Adderbury or telephone 0295 810703.

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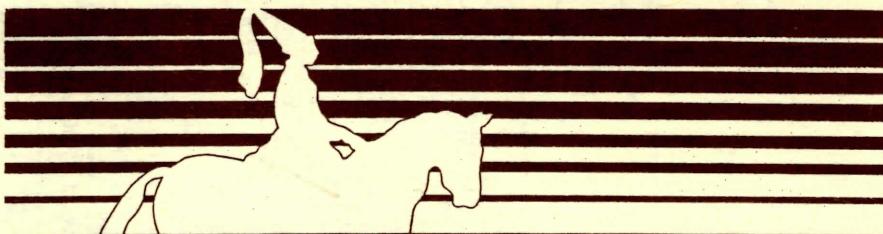
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