

The Banbury Symphony Orchestra

Saturday 23rd June 1990

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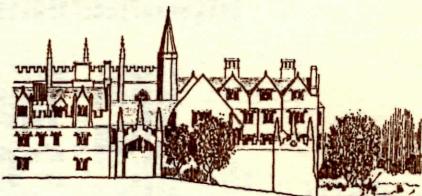
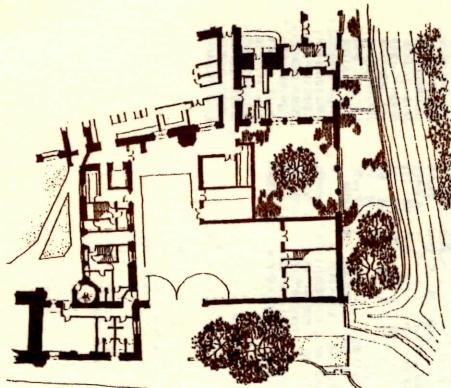
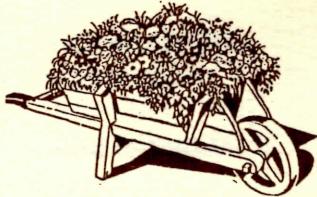
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The Banbury Symphony Orchestra

(Leader - Geoffrey Kent)

Kathy Thulborn

Cello

Raymond Head

Conductor

Mozart — *Idomeneo Overture*

Bridge — *Summer*

Elgar — *Cello Concerto*

* * * * *

Parry — *Symphony No.2*

(1st modern performance)

St. Mary's Church, Adderbury, 7.30 p.m. Saturday 23rd June 1990

Mozart (1756 - 1791)

Overture: Idomeneo

The opera 'Idomeneo King of Crete' was written in 1781 to a libretto by Abatte Varesco, Court Chaplain of Salzburg. It was not his first opera but it was the first in which he exploited all the dramatic possibilities of the text. After its first performance Mozart's father wrote, 'The universal subject of conversation here is your opera.' Its success decided Mozart to compose further works in this medium.

Frank Bridge (1879 - 1941)

Tone Poem: Summer

Bridge studied violin at the Royal College of Music and composition with Stanford. He early made a career as a notable chamber music player and conductor. However, all the time he continued to compose in all forms. For many years he was best known as Benjamin Britten's teacher but in the last few years his own music has been investigated and found to be of great interest. 'Summer' was written in 1914, before the outbreak of war. This summer is not carefree or cloudless but in the end there is a peaceful resolution.

Elgar (1857 - 1934)

'Cello Concerto in E minor

Soloist: Kathy Thulborn

Today if you are not famous by the end of your twenties you might as well give up as you will be considered passé. But Elgar, Holst and Delius all came into prominence only in their late thirties and early forties. The 'Enigma Variations' began Elgar's public career and the 'Cello Concerto' brought it to a close in 1919 many years before his death. The concerto is at once a resumé of his whole career and yet at the same time contains intimations of new directions. This is especially true of its conciseness, and the brevity of the melodic ideas. There is not a spare note in the piece, the merest crotchet is often invested with intense feeling. The work is profoundly valedictory. When Elgar's wife died in 1920 the most important influence in his creative life went. Though he lived until 1934 he wrote nothing original again.

INTERVAL

Parry (1848 - 1918)

Symphony No. 2 in F ('Cambridge')

Parry was the second son of Thomas Gambier Parry of Highnam Court, Gloucester. He was educated at Eton and Oxford. From an early age he began to compose but after leaving Oxford he spent three years at Lloyds before deciding on a music career. He studied with Sterndale Bennett and G.A. Macfarren and in Stuttgart. Parry achieved great standing in his life as Director of the Royal College of Music and Professor of Music at Oxford. Throughout his life he composed major symphonic works including five symphonies and a fine 'Symphonic Variations'. Today he is best known for 'Jerusalem' and 'Blest Pair of Sirens'. But good as these works are they do not convey the full measure of Parry's originality. He was not a conventional person and nor was his music. It is full of good tunes but developed in surprising ways, often contrapuntally with daring harmonies and sudden changes of mood, like Elgar's symphonies. When the 'Cambridge' Symphony was first performed in 1883 it was realised that here was a work of great aspiration, a work of real quality.

Notes by Raymond Head

KATHARINE THULBORN

Katharine Thulborn was a pupil of the famous teacher William Pleeth at the Guildhall School of Music. There she achieved a place in the finals of the prestigious Gold Medal Competition. She was also selected to play in Paul Tortelier's Masterclass on BBC 2. After performing around the country in a 'cello and piano duo as well as playing most of the major concertos Katharine took a year off to travel around the world with the pop group Jethro Tull. From this she earned enough money to buy her lovely Italian 'cello. On her return she joined the Philharmonia Orchestra where she enjoyed working with the world's great conductors. She has now left to devote herself to freelance solo and chamber music.

RAYMOND HEAD

Raymond Head studied the piano with Alice Goosens in London and with Jean Churchill at Dartington College of Arts; composition with Roger Smalley and Edwin Roxburgh and harpsichord with Mary Potts, Cambridge. He has worked in Italy as a repetiteur for Hans Werner Henze and appeared as an accompanist in the U.K. and Italy. For his researches into the music of Gustav Holst he was given a Holst Foundation Award, and others from the British Academy and Yale. As a conductor he has appeared at St John's Smith Square and for the National Trust. He has published a book on the subject of East-West influences and has lectured widely. His programme 'Indian Airs' was broadcast by the BBC last year.

BANBURY SYMPHONY CONCERTS 1990-1991

Saturday, 17th November, 1990, St. Mary's Church, Adderbury, 7.30 p.m.

- Walton - Prelude Richard III
 Ravel - Pavane pour une infante defunte
 Mozart - Flute Concerto No. 1
 Soloist: PAUL CHAPMAN
 Mahler - Symphony No. 1 (last movement)

Saturday, 1st December, 1990, St. Mary's Church, Adderbury, 4.00 p.m.

Children's Concert

*
* Saturday, 16th March, 1991, in Deddington Church at 7.30
* JOHN LILL (PIANO SOLOIST)
* Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor
* The programme will also include Smetana: Bartered Bride
* overture

Saturday, 22nd June, 1991, St. Mary's Church, Adderbury, 7.30 p.m.

- Copland - Fanfare for the Common Man
Delius - Song of Summer
Richard Strauss - Four Last Songs
 soloist: BETHAN DUDLEY
Elgar - Enigma Variations

SPONSORSHIP

These concerts cost far more to produce than can be recouped by sale of tickets. Our March concert was sponsored by British Alcan, and we would be most grateful to receive offers of sponsorship of future concerts from other local firms, particularly for the John Lill concert. Please get in touch with our Treasurer, whose address is given on the last page.

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The Friends of Music in Adderbury organize a series of chamber concerts in this church each year. For further information get in touch with Barbara Minter, The Tythe Barn, Adderbury, or telephone 0295 810703.

The Banbury Symphony Orchestra is most grateful to the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. Mary's Church, Adderbury, for their permission to use this beautiful church for our concert.

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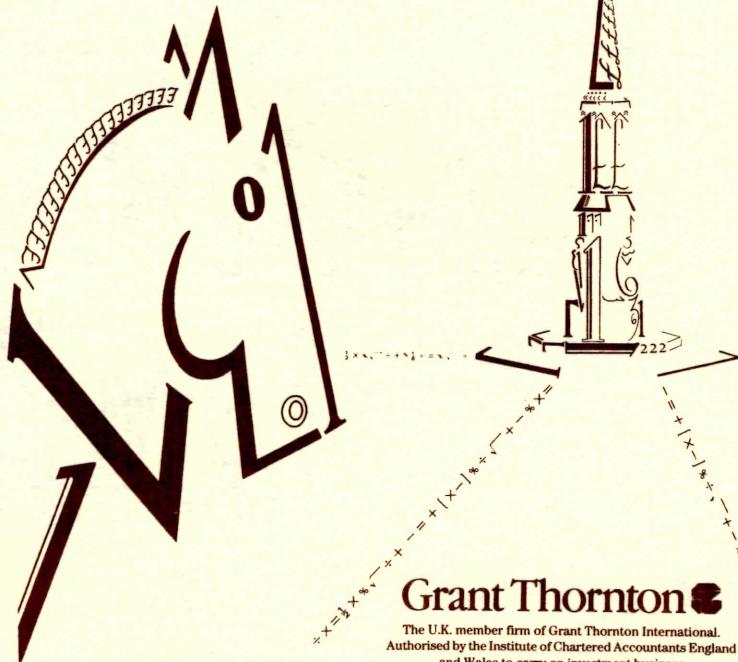
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