



# 45<sup>TH</sup> NATS CONVENTION

JULY 3-7, 1998 TORONTO, CANADA



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*TOWARD A SOUND  
FUTURE*

# THÉ CHANTANT

## (Songs for Tea Time)

### The Aldeburgh Connection

**Artists:** **Monica Whicher, soprano** **Stephen Ralls, pianist**  
**Benjamin Butterfield, tenor** **Bruce Ubukata, pianist**

**Buckingham Palace** (A.A. Milne) H. Fraser-Simson

**Old Sir Faulk** (Edith Sitwell) William Walton

**Le Thé** (Théodore de Banville) Charles Koechlin

*Tea: Miss Ellen, pour tea for me into the lovely Chinese cup, where golden fish pick a quarrel with the frightened rose-coloured monster...I love the mad cruelty of chimeras that are tamed.*

*There, under an angry red sky a lady, haughty and cunning, sheds from her long, turquoise eyes rapture and artlessness.*

*Miss Ellen, pour tea for me.*

**Placet futile** (Stéphane Mallarmé) Claude Debussy

*Futile petition: Princess! envying the fate of Hebe, who appears on this cup at the kiss of your lips, I try my best but have only the sober rank of abbé and cannot be a naked figure on the Sèvres porcelain.*

*Since I am not your bearded lap-dog, nor your lozenge, nor your rouge, nor the idle game you toy with, and since I know your glance has fallen on me, blonde whose divine hairdressers are goldsmiths!...*

*Name us...you whose raspberry laughter is like a flock of tame sheep, cropping everywhere and bleating deliriously...*

*Name us...so that Love winged with a fan may paint me there, flute in my fingers, lulling this sheepfold, Princess, name us shepherd of your smiles.*

**Réponse d'une épouse sage** (H.P.Roché) Op. 35/2 Albert Roussel

*Reply of a virtuous wife (from a poem by Chang-Chi, 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century): Knowing, sir, my married state, you have sent me two precious pearls, and I, understanding your love, coldly placed them upon the silk of my dress.*

*For my house is of high lineage, my husband, captain of the King's Guard, and a man such as yourself ought to say: "The bonds of matrimony are not to be broken."*

*With the two pearls I send back two tears, two tears that I did not meet you sooner.*

**Five o'clock, fox-trot** (*Colette*) Maurice Ravel  
 In this little scene from *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*, an English teapot and a Chinese cup threaten the naughty child in their own languages, dancing as they do so.

**Dayton, Ohio-1903** Randy Newman

**Hesitation-Tango** (*Souvenirs, Op.28*) Samuel Barber

**Le Chapelier** (*René Chalupt*) Erik Satie

*The Mad Hatter (after "Alice in Wonderland")*: The hatter is astonished to find that his watch is three days slow, although he has always taken care to grease it with butter of the best quality. But he has allowed breadcrumbs to fall into the works, and even if he tries dipping his watch in the tea, that will not make it go any faster.

### Brief Interval

**Gigerlette** (*Otto Julius Bierbaum*) Arnold Schoenberg

*Fräulein Gigerlette invited me to tea. Her attire was white as snow. She was dressed just like Pierrette. Even a monk, I bet, would have looked with pleasure on Gigerlette.*

*The room was red in which she received me. The flicker of yellow candles hung in the air, and she was, as always, lively and witty. I'll never forget it, never; the room was wine-red, blossom-white was she.*

*And in a coach-and-four we two took a ride together to the land that is called delight. So that we shouldn't lose reins, goal and course, Cupid was sitting behind, driving the fiery four.*

**Erlafsee** (*Johann Mayrhofer*) D586 Franz Schubert

*I am so happy, yet so sad, by the quiet Erlafsee. A blessed silence in the pine trees, motionless the blue depths; only the cloud shadows drift across the smooth mirror of the lake. Fresh breezes gently ruffle the water, and the sun's golden corona grows pale.*

**The Trellis** (*Aldous Huxley*) John Ireland

**Have some Madeira, m'dear?** (*Michael Flanders*) Donald Swann

**Tea for two** (*No, no, Nanette*) Vincent Youmans