

THE
Aldeburgh
CONNECTION



Noblesse Oblige

WALTER HALL
SUNDAY APRIL 26, 1998
2:30 p.m.

NOBLESSE OBLIGE

Songs and piano music by Sir Hubert Parry and Lord Berners

MARY LOU FALLIS, soprano DANIEL NEFF, baritone

STEPHEN RALLS and BRUCE UBUKATA, piano



Our sincere thanks to Zurich Canada
for sponsoring today's concert.



PART I - SIR HUBERT PARRY (1848-1918)

Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, Baronet, was the second son of Thomas Gambier Parry, of Highnam Court near Gloucester, a highly skilled amateur painter and patron of the arts. Educated at Eton and Exeter College, Oxford, Hubert Parry showed early proficiency in musical matters, taking his Mus.B. at the age of 19. After leaving Oxford he worked for three years in insurance, but after he and his partners had lost all their capital, he decided to devote himself exclusively to music.

In 1880 his piano concerto was played at the Crystal Palace and *Scenes from Prometheus Unbound* at the Gloucester Festival. The latter work, though poorly received, is often taken as marking the beginning of the English musical renaissance. After *Blest pair of sirens* was performed to great acclaim by the Bach Choir in 1887 his fame was assured. His large output includes twelve volumes of *English Lyrics*, from which all of today's songs are taken.

Parry became Director of the Royal College of Music in 1894. In 1898 he was knighted and at the coronation of Edward VII in 1903 he was created a baronet. Always a keen sportsman, he indulged his favourite pastime of ocean yachting as often as he could (until the First World War put a stop to such excursions), and went on bicycling tours until a month before his death at the age of 70.

My heart is like a singing bird (*Christina Rossetti*)

Love is a bable (*from Robert Jones's Second Book of Songs and Airs, 1601*)

And yet I love her till I die (*from Thomas Ford's Music of Sundry Kinds, 1607*)

My true love hath my heart (*Sir Philip Sidney*)

Of all the torments (*William Walsh*)

Elizabeth (*from Shulbrede Pieces for piano*)

A Welsh lullaby (*translated from the Welsh by E.O.Jones*)

To Lucasta on going to the wars (*Richard Lovelace*)

Slow Minuet (*from Suite in F, Lady Radnor's Suite*)

Through the ivory gate (*Julian Sturgis*)

Proud Maisie (*Sir Walter Scott*)

When comes my Gwen (*translated from the Welsh by E.O.Jones*)



INTERMISSION

during which tea will be served in the Toren Room
with the kind assistance of students
of the Opera Division, Faculty of Music



PART 2 - LORD BERNERS (1883-1950)

Sir Gerald Hugh Tyrwhitt-Wilson, fifth baronet and fourteenth Baron Berners, was born at Apley Park, near Bridgnorth in Shropshire, the only child of Lieutenant Hugh Tyrwhitt. He went to Eton, but left at an early age and travelled in France and Germany, where he received some musical education. Eventually entering the diplomatic service he served as honorary attaché in the embassies at Constantinople and Rome. While in Rome he became influenced by the Italian futurist painters, and also received advice and encouragement from the composer Alfredo Casella, who gave the first performance of the *Trois petites marches funèbres* in 1914. At about this time also he visited Paris for a brief period of study with Stravinsky.

In 1918 Gerald Tyrwhitt inherited from his uncle the barony of Berners and the Tyrwhitt baronetcy. Thereupon he sold much of the Berners property and bought Faringdon House in Berkshire where he lived for the remainder of his life, entertaining his many friends and occasionally visiting London and Rome where he owned a house overlooking the Forum.

Lord Berners was a talented landscape painter and a writer (producing five satirical novels and two volumes of autobiography). But he is chiefly remembered as a composer for the stage, supplying five ballets for the Diaghilev and Sadler's Wells Companies, as well as an opera *Le Carrosse du Saint-Sacrement* (based on the same story as Offenbach's *La Périchole*). His output also includes orchestral and piano music, and a number of songs to German, English and French words.

Three English Songs

The green-eyed monster (*E.L.Duff*)

Lullaby (*Thomas Dekker*)

The lady visitor in the pauper ward (*Robert Graves*)

From Lieder Album

Du bist wie eine Blume (*Heine*)

You are like a flower, so sweet and fair and pure; I gaze at you, and sadness steals into my heart. I feel as if I should lay my hands upon your head, praying that God may preserve you so pure and fair and sweet.

Three Songs

The Rio Grande (*Capstan shanty*)

Theodore, or The Pirate King (*John Masefield*)

A long time ago (*Halliards shanty*)

Valses Bourgeoises (Duet for the Piano Forte)

I Valse Brillante

II Valse Caprice

III Strauss, Strauss et Straus

*Red roses and red noses (words by Lord Berners)**Polka*

Come on Algernon (*T.E.B. Clarke*)

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We mourn the death on Monday, March 30th, of our honorary patron, **Greta Kraus**. A complete musician, utterly dedicated to her art, she was an enthusiastic and inspiring supporter of our work. We are proud to acknowledge our enormous debt to her, and will always be grateful for her encouragement, insight, and friendship. There will be a Memorial Tribute to Greta Kraus on Friday, May 8 at 3 pm in Walter Hall.



Early details of next year's concerts are included on the insert in the program; we expect to mail out our Season brochure with full information on these concerts in June. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please contact our box office at the address shown on the program insert.

Copies of our 1997 JUNO nominated CD: *Benjamin Britten: The Canticles* are available in the lobby at intermission.

Box office revenues cover only a portion of our operating budget; grants, corporate funding and individual donations are needed for the balance. Audience members are asked to consider joining one of our supporting categories: **Benefactor** (\$1000 or more), **Champion** (\$500 or more), **Patron** (\$100 or more) and **Friend** (\$50 or more). Donations may be made by cheque or VISA, and may be made in instalments, if you prefer. You will receive information on our activities, and all donations will be acknowledged with a receipt for income tax purposes. Other donations and suggestions for corporate sponsorship will be gratefully received, and donors may also act as sponsors for an entire concert, an artist, a special commission, or the intermission tea! Your support is vital in helping to ensure the continuation of these concerts.



We gratefully acknowledge assistance from:

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ZURICH



Aldeburgh is the small town on the east coast of England where Benjamin Britten, Peter Pears and Eric Crozier founded the Festival of Music which flourishes to this day. Artistic directors Stephen Ralls and Bruce Ubukata have visited and worked there for many summers, as has a large number of the singers appearing with The Aldeburgh Connection.

Mary Lou Fallis made her operatic début at the age of 15 in a CBC-TV production of *The Magic Flute* and went on to a concert career in oratorio and choral works with leading orchestras, and to operatic roles such as Despina in *Così fan tutte* and Zerbinetta in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. She is best known as the creator of five one-woman shows, *Primadonna*, based on her own life as a singer, and its sequel, *Primadonna's First Farewell Tour*, *Emma, Queen of Song*, *The Mrs Bach Show*, and *Ms Mozart*. Her latest CD, of little-known and often uproarious Canadian Heritage songs from 1840 to 1925, is entitled *Primadonna on a Moose*. Upcoming engagements include the opening gala of the Guelph Spring Festival, a Bach *Magnificat* with Tafelmusik at the Scotia Festival, and the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival in July.

Daniel Neff studied at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music, and its Opera School, as well as at the Britten/Pears School for Advanced Musical Studies in Aldeburgh, England, where he worked with Sir Peter Pears, Hugues Cuénod, and John Shirley-Quirk. Mr. Neff has toured throughout Canada, has performed at many major Canadian festivals and at the Aldeburgh Festival in England. His versatility is displayed in a wide variety of roles ranging from Donizetti and Rossini through Gilbert and Sullivan to the music of Jerome Kern. Recently Mr. Neff performed the role of the Narrator in Benjamin Britten's opera *Paul Bunyan* at the University of Toronto. He can be heard on Compact Disc: *Christmas with the Victoria Scholars*; and on *Prima Donna on a Moose* with Mary Lou Fallis.

