

Forty-first Aldeburgh Festival of Music and the Arts

Founded in 1948 by Benjamin Britten, Peter Pears and Eric Crozier

10-26 June 1988

Patron of the Aldeburgh Festival

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

Executive Artistic Directors

STEUART BEDFORD

OLIVER KNUSSEN

MURRAY PERAHIA



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Black Heath Mansion, 3 pm

Northern Lights

THE ALDEBURGH CONNECTION

JANE LESLIE MACKENZIE *soprano*
 CATHERINE ROBBIN *mezzo-soprano*
 PETER BUTTERFIELD *tenor*
 GERALD FINLEY *baritone*
 STEPHEN RALLS *piano* BRUCE UBUKATA *piano*

Most of the spoken extracts are taken from the memoirs of Lord Frederic Hamilton, a diplomat who writes entertainingly of his time as Secretary in the British Embassy in Petrograd (St Petersburg). He also visited Canada – his sister, Lady Maud, was the wife of Lord Lansdowne, Governor-General from 1883 to 1885.

WINTER AND SPRING IN RUSSIA

Where are you, little star?

Modest Mussorgsky (1839–1891)

Where are you, little star? Have the black clouds shrouded you from sight? Tell me, beautiful one, where are you? Have you forgotten your true love, who longs for you so?

Grekov

In the silent night, Op. 4 No. 3

Sergei Rachmaninov (1873–1943)

In the silent night, in vain I try to banish thoughts of you. I long to cry out aloud, that night may know your name.

Fel

Night (1893)

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)

Quartet, based on Mozart's Fantasia in C minor (K. 475)

How fair is the night. Everything is silent – only the stream prattles like a baby. O night! Give me the peace of oblivion. Bring me blissful sleep.

Tchaikovsky

Song of the Volga boatmen

Russian folk song, arranged for piano duet by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Duet: Dawn, Op. 46 No. 6

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Day is dawning, the sun is reborn. Let us kneel in homage before God.

Surikov

Under the green apple tree

Russian folk song, arranged for piano duet by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Duet: In the garden, near the stream, Op. 46 No. 4

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

In the garden, near the stream, the young girl sighs and weeps – but the careless young man laughs at her distress.

Surikov

Valse (Serenade for Strings, Op. 48)

Arranged for piano duet by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

At the ball, Op. 38 No. 3

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Amid the din of the ball, by sheer chance, I first saw you; and now your face and your laughing voice haunt me.

A. K. Tolstoy

Les larmes, Op. 65 No. 5

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Tears. If you bring calm after such torment, if you will cover with forgetfulness so many secret ills, if you bathe my wounds and are sweet, O my tears, flow! But, if as at other times you are deadly, if you gnaw at a heart already burning within, do not add to my pain, pity my eyelids! O tears, let me be!

Blanchecotte

Spring waters, Op. 14 No. 11

Sergei Rachmaninov

The fields are still white with snow. But flowing water rushes along proclaiming, 'Spring is here!' And soft, warm May days crowd joyfully behind the spring.

Tyutchev

VIKING VOICES

The diamond in the snow, Op. 36 No. 6

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

A diamond glitters on freshly fallen snow. It glows with adoration for the warm sun and melts to a tear. Happy are the lovers who worship their highest ideal and, thus adoring, die!

Wecksell

Black roses, Op. 36 No. 1

Jean Sibelius

In my heart grows a rose tree, its stems covered with thorns. As it grows and grows, I think I shall perish: for sorrow has roses black as night.

Josephson

Piano Duet: Let's dance gay in green meadow Faeroe Island dance-folk song

Percy Grainger (1882-1961)

The Australian Grainger, born almost as far south as a composer could be, appears in our concert by virtue of his enthusiasm for things Nordic. He collected many folk songs in Denmark and the Faeroe Islands and was a close friend of Grieg.

With a water-lily, Op. 25 No. 4

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

See the white flower I bring from the quiet stream - pin it on your breast. Your bosom is like the stream, it is dangerous to dream there. Lilies play on the surface while the water sprite pretends to be asleep.

Ibsen

The power of love Danish folk song

Percy Grainger

INTERVAL

WINTER AND SPRING IN CANADA

Our old Canadian home

C. P. Woodlawn

Nothing is known of the background to this rousing piece. Published in 1868, it was entered (like all Canadian music of the time) 'according to Act of Parliament . . . in the Office of the Minister of Agriculture'.

The Canadian sleigh song

Henry Russell (1812-1900)

Russell was an English singer who visited Toronto, then became organist of Rochester, New York, before returning to England, where he presented entertainments of anecdotes and songs like this one, from *The Emigrant's Progress*.

Now fades the last long streak of snow*Derek Holman (b. 1931)*

Holman's cycle *The Centred Passion*, settings of six poems from Tennyson's *In Memoriam*, was composed for Mark Pedrotti and first performed by him in 1987.

LOVE IN A COLD CLIMATE

She's like the swallow Newfoundland folk song

arranged by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

The role of Canada in the world today

Harry Freedman (b. 1922)

This song, to a text by Dave Mullin, is taken from *Poems of Young People*, written in 1968, to writings by public and high-school students in Toronto.

Piano Duet: Polka Music for Dancing (1948)

John Beckwith (b. 1927)

Sonnet

Sir Ernest MacMillan (1893-1973)

This song, a setting of a sonnet by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, is dedicated 'To my wife'.

Jimmie's got a goil

John Beckwith

The fourth of *Six songs to poems by e. e. cummings* of 1980-82.

Piano Duet: Brilliant Contredanse and Polka

George Strathy (1818-1890)

Original piano duets were rare in nineteenth-century Canada. This one, published in 1864, was written by the first Professor of Music at the University of Trinity College, who claimed to have studied with Mendelssohn and Liszt. In 1881, a university journal reported, 'We have seen nothing of him - no graduates - no lectures - no examinations - it is time for a change.'

FINALE

All around the circle A Canadian folk-song suite

John Greer (b. 1954)

- 1 *When the ice worms nest again* (Arctic)
- 2 *The Alberta homestead* (Alberta)
- 3 *Old grandma* (Prairies)
- 4 *Rattle on the stovepipe* (Ontario)
- 5 *Do you see that there bird?* (Nova Scotia)
- 6 *The morning dew* (Newfoundland)
- 7 *Quodlibet*, introducing seven different Newfoundland folk songs

All around the circle was commissioned by The Aldeburgh Connection

Programme information compiled by The Aldeburgh Connection

With financial assistance from the Canadian High Commission, Canada House, London and from the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Culture and Communications