

# THE ALDEBURGH CONNECTION

(Patron: Sir Peter Pears)



## NOBLESSE OBLIGE

WALTER HALL  
SUNDAY, MARCH 3rd 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 & BRUCE UBUKATA Piano

### Part 1 - 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' 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*)

#### INTERVAL

during which tea will be served in the lobby

## 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-Sacrament (based on the same story as Offenbach's La Perichole). His output also includes orchestral and piano music, and a number of songs to German, English and French words.

### Three Songs in the English Manner

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 on 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*)



MARY LOU FALLIS has appeared frequently as soloist with the major Canadian orchestras and in recital on the CBC. She has received critical acclaim for her original one-woman shows: Primadonna, which has toured Canada extensively and Emma, Queen of Song, which will shortly be performed at the Barbican Centre, London, England. A new show, Mrs Bach, will run for two weeks this July at the Shaw Festival.

DANIEL NEFF, a recent graduate from the University of Toronto, Opera Division has been performing throughout Canada in opera and oratorio. He recently gave a recital in London, England. He has appeared with the Calgary Opera, Canada Opera Piccola, Dallas Public Opera, Toronto's Opera in Concert, and numerous choirs and orchestras in Ontario.

STEPHEN RALLS and BRUCE UBUKATA formed The Aldeburgh Connection in 1982 as a means of increasing the opportunities for Canada's young singers to perform the enormous concert repertoire for voice and piano. Each is also busy in varied fields, Mr Ubukata as a noted organist and continuo player and Mr Ralls in his work with the Canadian Opera Company and the University of Toronto, Opera Division.



We gratefully acknowledge financial support for this series received from the Ontario Arts Council and the Canadian Aldeburgh Foundation.

We would also like to thank the Hazelton Café and Gourmet for providing afternoon tea and Bruce Philpott (Bedford House Designs) for the floral arrangements.

The final concert in this series of ENGLISH AFTERNOONS will be A Country House Weekend on May 12th at 2:30 p.m. in Walter Hall, with soloists including Catherine Robbin, mezzo-soprano. If you would like tickets for this concert or if you would like to receive information about future Aldeburgh Connection concerts, please write to The Aldeburgh Connection, 25 Bedford Road #603, Toronto M5R 2K1. (Tel: 967-1147)

Cover illustration: drawing by Rex Whistler from a photograph of Apley Park, birthplace of Lord Berners.