

The Age of Baroque



Choral and Orchestral music by the
**ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
CHORAL SOCIETY**
conducted by
Derek Watmough

*Assembly Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells
Sunday, 16th November 1980 3 pm*

20p

Philippa Dames-Longworth was born in Devon and is a graduate of Trinity College of Music. Whilst there she won several major prizes, and on leaving was awarded the Anthony Gishford Scholarship by Sir Peter Pears to study at the Britten-Pears School for advanced musical studies.

She has performed extensively in oratorio and has appeared at Royal Albert Hall, Fairfield Hall, on the South Bank and in the Aldeburgh and Brighton Festivals.

In October 1979 Philippa was chosen to sing in the world premiere of Taverner's *Thérèse* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The following month she joined the Guildhall Opera Course, where she sang the title role of *L'Incoronazione di Poppaea* and *Fjordilgi* in *Così fan Tutte*. She is at present studying in London with Rudolph Piernay.

Susan Mason was born in York, and studied in London with Audrey Langford. She has recently been in demand by choral societies for concerts in many of the leading cathedrals and concert halls up and down the country. Performances earlier this year have included Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* in Southwark Cathedral and *St. John Passion* in York Minster.

With the Royal Opera she has sung roles in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Der Freischütz* and *Simone Boccanegra*. In a recent tour of the Far East she took part in performances of *The Magic Flute* conducted by Colin Davis.

Susan has given several recitals for music clubs since she won first prize in the 1979 Tunbridge Wells International Young Concert Artists Competition, and she has been selected as an I.C.M. Young Recitalist for the 1981 Lunchtime Recital series.



The King Shall Rejoice was composed in 1727 for the Coronation of King George II. Handel was by then Composer to the Court and a naturalised Englishman. There is an opening chorus in his grandest manner, a pastoral movement for solo quartet and, after a short, slow introduction, two more choruses in his familiar sturdy fugal style.

The date of composition of Monteverdi's *Beatus Vir* is probably about 1630. It is a setting of Psalm 111 for six-part choir, strings, organ and three optional trombones. The voice parts are combined in a great variety of different textures, with brilliant effect.

Bach's 2nd Brandenburg Concerto has trumpet, flute, oboe and violin as soloists – all bright, treble instruments. The music is therefore very lively and brilliant, especially with the extremely high trumpet part. In the first movement the soloists are mostly combined with the *tutti*, making an orchestral effect. The slow movement is a trio for flute, oboe

and violin with continuo accompaniment. The trumpet bursts in at the start of the fugal finale, and the excitement never flags.

My Heart is Inditing was Purcell's contribution to King James II's Coronation on April 23, 1685 – a magnificent work worthy of a happier occasion. It is an extended example of the Verse Anthems popular at the time, sections for the string orchestra and a small choir alternating with sections for the full forces. The writing for eight-part choir shows Purcell's skill in counterpoint and marvelous harmonic originality.

Vivaldi's *Gloria* is too long and too elaborate to have been used as part of a liturgical Mass. It may have been written for the girls' school in Venice where he taught from 1703 to 1720, as all the solo voices are female. It is a work of great variety, its twelve movements ranging from strong choruses to tender arias, and ending with a powerful fugue.

A.B.S.-M



Forthcoming Concerts

Sunday, 14th December 1980
Assembly Hall, 3 pm
Carols and Christmas Music
The Mayfield Band (Director: Ken Rich)
The Ridgeway School Choir
Alexandra Thompson (soprano)
Conducted by Derek Watmough

Sunday, 12 April 1980
Assembly Hall 3 pm
VERDI: REQUIEM
Penelope Thorn, Susan Mason, Neil McKinnon
and John Hancock
Conducted by Derek Watmough

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY
77th Season


 Baroque Concert 

Handel: The King Shall Rejoice


Monteverdi: Beatus Vir

J.S. Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F

Martin Ings (*trumpet*) Alan Baker (*flute*)
Jane Pamment (*violin*) Angela Tennick (*oboe*)



Interval – 15 minutes



Purcell: My Heart is inditing

Vivaldi: Gloria

Philippa Dames Longworth – *Soprano*
Susan Mason – *Alto*

Leader: Jane Pamment
Harpsichord: Anthony Smith-Masters

CONDUCTOR
Derek Watmough



Sunday, 30 November 1980
Assembly Hall 3pm
Green Room (Music) Club
Prizewinners of the International
Young Concert Artists Competition, 1980

Sunday, 7 December 1980
Assembly Hall 3 pm
Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra
Soloist: Fou T'Song

THE ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY

77th Season

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MUSICAL DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR: Derek Watmough

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Patrons of the Society may either contribute a minimum of £14 each season and receive two free tickets for each concert, or may covenant £10 or more in accordance with the Society's status as a charity.

Vice-Presidents contribute a minimum of £7 each season and receive one free ticket for each concert. The names of Patrons and Vice-Presidents are listed in each of the Society's programmes, and we would like to express our thanks to them for their past and continuing support. New Patrons and Vice-Presidents are also most welcome: for details please write to the General Secretary, G.D. Stredder, Birchetts Court, Stockland Green Road, Tunbridge Wells TN3 0TY. Telephone: Langton 2887. The General Secretary would also welcome applications for ordinary membership from tenors, as there are still a few vacancies in that section.

We would also like to express our thanks to the staff and management of the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, for their assistance and advice in the presentation of our three major concerts each season.

The National Federation of Music Societies and South East Arts, to which the Society is affiliated, give support towards the costs of concerts with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain. The Tunbridge Wells Borough Council also provides guarantees.

The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society is a registered charity.