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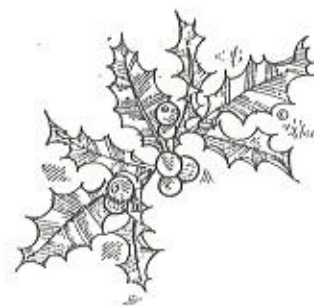
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CHRISTMAS CONCERT

THE WAVERLEY SINGERS

SIONED WILLIAMS - Harp

PAUL GRIFFITHS - Organ

Conductor — MALCOLM HICKS

**Saturday 19th December 1992 at 7.30 p.m.
at CHURCH OF ST. MARY
ALTON**

Programme £5.50



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SIONED WILLIAMS has become widely recognized as one of the most outstanding harpists of her generation. After her initial success in competitions and in gaining awards and scholarships, her engaging personality and rapport with audiences enabled her to become widely known on the concert platform both in Britain and abroad.

Sioned combines her work as Principal Harpist of the BBC SO since March 1990 with regular solo appearances. She has taken part in major British festivals including Bath, Cheltenham, Edinburgh, and Greenwich, and in recent years she has given recitals in International Festivals in Berlin, Vienna, and Paris. Apart from receiving widespread critical acclaim for performances of standard works, Sioned constantly expands the repertoire at both ends of the spectrum. She has edited and published out-of-print works, and is a champion of modern music, regularly performing works by leading composers from Britain and elsewhere.

Sioned's schedule for 1990 included a concerto appearance with William Bennett and the ECO at the Barbican, a solo concerto with the BBC Welsh SO in St. David's Hall, Cardiff; duo recitals in the Edinburgh Harp Festival with Caroline Franklyn, the Criccieth Festival with Michael Chance, and in Leamington and Hastings with Malcolm Messiter.

Early in 1991, Sioned appeared with Neil Mackie in Belfast, and premiered British works in concert and on radio in Budapest, where she also performed solos by Ferenc Farkas and Erzsébet Szonyi in the presence of both composers. During July, Sioned gave concerts with Elena Duran in venues throughout Britain including "The Theatre in the Forest", Grizedale, and "The Stables" at Wavendon. In the same month, Sioned played solos and accompanied the choir of "Christchurch" Oxford in works which included the world premier of Alan Ridout's "Hymn to the Holy Spirit" at the World Harp Festival in Cardiff. Last August, Sioned was seen live on television performing Mozart's Flute and Harp Concerto with William Bennett and the BBC Welsh SO from the National Eisteddfod opening concert. This summer, Sioned performed with Aurélie Nicolet in the Cheltenham Festival, and in Bangor Cathedral with their choir, under Andrew Goodwin.

In April 1991, Sioned added to her impressive list of commercial recordings performing Britten's Canticum No. 5 with Anthony Rolfe-Johnson on the Hyperion label. In September 1992 she will record Britten's Ceremony of Carols with The Sixteen for Collins Classics. Her broadcasting continues on radios 2, 3 and 4, and her own series "Affairs of the Harp" was heard on Radio 4 and the World Service.

Teaching has always played an important role in Sioned's work, and 1991 saw the launch of the first ever "Professional Studies Course for Harpists" which Sioned devised for Trinity College of Music, and in which there is already a considerable interest from students worldwide. Sioned gives masterclasses and teaches on courses in Britain and abroad, e.g. in February 1991, she was a guest at the Liszt Academy in Budapest where she went with assistance from the British Council.

PAUL GRIFFITHS began playing the organ at the age of ten and won first prize in the London Musical Competition Festival at the age of 13. Whilst studying with Malcolm Hicks, he gained the ARCO, ARCM and LRAM within a six-month period and the FRCO two years later. In 1981, he was placed second in the Trianon Organ Competition.

Having been organist and choirmaster at St. Mary's, Welwyn, from 1980, he moved to Hong Kong in 1986, where he became assistant organist at St. John's Cathedral and head of organ at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. He also featured in broadcasts with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and has given recitals in several countries, including the English Cathedrals of Ely, Peterborough and St. Paul's.

Paul played at the Waverley Singers' concert in Odiham last June.

MALCOLM HICKS graduated in Music at the University of Birmingham where he was also Assistant Master at the Cathedral, and organist and Assistant Conductor with major choirs and orchestras. After further studies in piano, cello, singing and conducting at the Guildhall School of Music, he has since pursued a full-time career as keyboard player and conductor. He plays with all the major London orchestras in South Bank concerts, Proms, many broadcasts for radio and TV, films and gramophone records, and on tour abroad, many times to Europe, and as far afield as Japan, Korea and Mexico. He was Associate Conductor of London Philharmonic Choir for 13 years and now works as chorus master with the Royal Choral Society and BBC Choirs. He has worked on the staff of the European Community Youth Orchestra, has taught, lectured and examined extensively. He was appointed Musical Director of the Waverley Singers in May 1982.

THE WAVERLEY SINGERS

Sopranos

Sue Adcock
Pat Atkinson
Pat Beer
Ruth Burnage
Philippa Cabot
Janet Carne
Elaine Cook
Mary Dearing
Mary Ditchburn
Jane Eckles
Jackie Epps
Clare Gardner
Barbara Goulder
Alison Griffiths
Didi Hall
Karen Harnett
Linda Harris
Sally Harrison
Rosemary Heasman
Carolyn Heathcote
Christine Hewson
Gillian Hill
Jennifer Holmes-Smith
Margaret Houston
Jane Kenney
Debbie Kitney
Mary Kimble
Margaret Lockwood
Carol McMahon
Kathy Marsh
Beverley Mellstrom
Judith Miller
Ann Pardoe
Mary Parker
Carolyn Patey
Janet Paul
Gillian Pickering
Tegwen Robb
Sarah Shepherd
Chris Siddall
Diana Smith
Janis Smy
Liz Stedman
Pauline Stock
Joan Warren
Kate Wickenden
Chris Wilson
Liz Witham
Angela Witherby

Altos

Sally Anderson
Anne Beadle
Allison Bosence
Susie Briars
Anne Butterworth
Alex Chignell
Cathy Clayson
Pamela Darker
Margaret Davies
Janet Ellen
Sheila Edwards
Merril Evans
Sarah Evans
Avery Fathers
Catherine Fearon
Ann Garnett
Angela Garrett
Yvonne Hales-Hunt
Linda Hodson
Eunice Hopkins
Cherry Howard
Isabel Hyatt
Valerie Leggatt
Margaret MacKenzie
Anne Mason
Rosalind Milton
Marian Morgan
Alyson Patterson
Joyce Percy
Jo Reader
Anne Rendell
Rosemary Russell
Stella Stilwell
Ann Tice
Susan Vega
Jane Warwick
Jennette Wickes
Margaret Williams
Christine Wilmshurst
Lindy Wiltshire
Wendy Winnfield

Tenors

Michael Clark
Philip Critchley
Harry Cuckson
David Danson
Byron Davies
Robin Felix

Hurdis

Grandison
Robert Gussman
Peter Haines
John Jackson
David Matthews
Donal McCarthy
Chris Page
Simon Paterson
Anthony Ramsden
Sam Williamson
Peter Wightman

Basses

Mike Aaronson
Geoffrey Barwick
John Barton
Mike Cabot
John Clive
Bill Compton
Sam Coulter
Don Crutchley
Paul Davis
Jon Dawes
John Dunham
Rod Eckles
Ronnie Ellen
Mike Evans
Ken Farwig
Roger Godfrey
Max Hadfield
Nigel Hague
Graham Hey
Patrick Higgins
Reggie Hoare
Alec Leggatt
Norman Lingard
Tony Macklow-Smith
Mark Maclay
David Morrison
Tony Parker
Trefor Roberts
Peter Robson
Simon Rycroft
George Shuttler
Peter Slimming
John Stedman
Garrod Stephen
Kim Stilwell
Neil Thompson
David Wilson
Christopher Winnfield

Associate Conductor: Murray Stewart

Musical Assistant: Margaret Houston

Accompanist: Lesley-Ann Brown

PROGRAMME

Carol with audience:
O come, all ye faithful 18th c. anon
arr. David Willcocks
(b. 1922)

Choir: Hodie Christus natus
est Jan Pieterszoon
Sweelinck
(1562-1621)

A Ceremony of Carols, Op.28 Benjamin Britten
(1913-1977)
1. *Precession*
2. *Wolcum Yole!*
3. *There is no rose*
4a *The Yonge Child*
4b *Balulalow*
5. *As dew in Aprille*
6. *This little babe*
7. *Interlude*
8. *In freezing winter night*
9. *Spring carol*
10. *Deo Gracias*
11. *Recession*

Carol with audience:
Once in royal David's city arr. David Willcocks

Harp solo:
Impromptu-Caprice Op.9 Gabriel Pierné
(1863-1937)

Choir:
In dulci jubilo German trad.
arr. John Rutter
(b. 1945)

Carol with audience:
While shepherds watched from Este's Psalter
(1592)

INTERVAL

Carol with audience:
The first Nowell English trad.
arr. Willcocks

Ave maris stella (from
the Vespers) Claudio Monteverdi
(1567-1643)

Organ solo:
Variations de Concert Joseph Bonnet
(1884-1944)

Carol with audience:
Unto us is born a Son from Piae Cantiones
arr. Willcocks

Choir: O little town of
Bethlehem Walford Davies
(1869-1941)

Noel Nouvelet French trad.
arr. Rutter

Harp solo: Variations on
a French carol Marcel Samuel-Rousseau
(1882-1955)

Choir: Wexford carol Irish trad.
arr. Rutter

Ding dong merrily on high 16c. French
harm. Charles Wood
(1866-1926)

Carol with audience:
Hark the herald angels
sing Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

PROGRAMME NOTES

JAN PIETERSZOOM SWEELINCK the Dutch composer, was organist at the Old Church in Amsterdam from about 1580 till his death in 1621. His organ music was an important formative influence on the development of the styles and forms brought to a summit by Bach a century later. *Hodie Christus natus est* is from *Cantiones Sacrae* published in Antwerp in 1619. It is a jubilant piece announcing the birth of Christ and describing the singing of the angels. It alternates lively 2 and 3-time in the characteristic 17c. way.

A Ceremony of Carols

BRITTEN wrote this work (along with *A Hymn to St. Cecilia*) while on the long sea voyage back to England from America in 1942. It has ever since been one of his most popular works. The words are drawn both from anonymous medieval carols of 15 and 16c. and from more recent poets, and begins and ends with liturgical chant in Latin. This version for treble voices and harp is the original. (It was subsequently arranged by Julius Harrison for SATB with optional piano). The balance of upper voices and harp is an inspired idea and works perfectly.

Gabriel Pierné

PIERNÉ entered the Parish Conservatoire, in 1871 in the same class as Debussy. He studied harmony with Durand, composition with Massenet and organ with Franck, whom he later succeeded as organist at St. Clothilde. He won prizes at the Conservatoire, and later, as a noted conductor he directed the first season of Diaghilev's *Ballet Russe* in Paris.

The *Impromptu-Caprice* in Ab Major Op. 9 was composed in 1885 for the concours at the Paris Conservatoire. The work shows a complete understanding of the double-action harp's capabilities, allowing for a display of virtuosity, yet leaving room for sensitive interpretation as well. Malherbe said of Pierné, 'He is almost a classicist with his works for harp.'

Ave Maris Stella comes from Monteverdi's celebrated *Vespers of the Blessed Virgin Mary* 1610. It is a hymn in seven short verses. The first and last are sustained contrapuntal settings in eight parts — the middle verses simpler settings with the beautiful tune clearly heard in the top part.

Variations de Concert — Joseph Bonnet

BONNET was born in Bordeaux and died near Quebec, and was a pupil of Alexandre Guilmant, the famous French organist and composer. At 22 Bonnet became organist at St. Eustache in Paris, and as a virtuoso player toured widely. This piece is a theme and four variations — at times the pedal parts written in chords!

MARCEL SAMUEL-ROUSSEAU is mainly known for his theatre music; incidental music to a Racine play, operas and a ballet 'Promenade dans Rome' (given at the Paris Opera, where he was director, 1941-44) are typical of his output. In these pastoral variations on an old French Christmas carol (in fact a 12th century Gregorian chant or plainsong) written for Marcel Tournier, he demonstrates his ability at other compositional styles. Through the seven variations, the work develops with complex rhythmical and structural movements which explore the many facets of the harp's character, before ending with a quiet coda in the major key. The composer uses the sixth or Myxolidian mode in all but the 4th variation. The old carol tune used as the basis for this piece is the one set by Rutter in *Noël nouvelet*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Waverley Singers would like to thank The Dr. Richard Frankel Charitable Trust for its generous donation. They also would like to express gratitude to their Advertisers and Patrons for their continuing support:

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Anyone interested in becoming a Patron of the choir is invited to contact Mrs. Ann Garnett, 21 Tavistock Road, Fleet (tel. Fleet 615713). Patrons receive advance notice of Concerts and priority booking forms, and are entitled to reserved seats in the position of their choice. Their names are listed in Concert programmes and gentlemen are entitled to wear the very attractive Waverley Singers' tie. They are also invited to the choir's social events. Present contributions from Patrons range from £10 to £100, and because of the tax benefits the choir particularly appreciates contributions by Deed of Covenant.

If you would like to join the choir as a singing member would you please contact the Secretary, Miss Judith Miller, 7 Frensham Avenue, Fleet. Tel. (0252) 613765.

The Waverley Singers would like to thank Father Baldwin and the parishioners of St. Mary's for making them so welcome in their lovely church.

This concert is subsidised by the South-East Arts Association.

The Waverley Singers are affiliated to the Adult Education Institute and the National Federation of Music Societies.

Staging provided by BOCM SILCOCK.

FUTURE CONCERTS

Saturday, March 13th, 1993. 7.30 p.m., at St. Andrew's Garrison Church, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot. Bruckner's Mass in E Minor, and works by Schutz, Mozart, Bach, and music for brass, with the Locke Wind Ensemble (Director Leslie Lake).

Saturday, June 12th, 1993. 7.30 p.m. at St. Thomas-on-the-Bourne Church. Music for Choir and Organ, including Tallis 40-part motet, and works by Gesualdo, Bruckner, Brahms, Haydn, Rachmaninov. With Paul Griffiths (organ).

Saturday, November 20th, 1993 at St. Andrew's Garrison Church, Aldershot. Vaughan Williams' Sea Symphony and Poulenc's "Gloria". With the Tilford Bach Orchestra.

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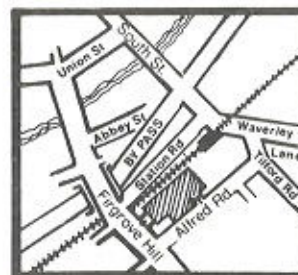


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