



53rd Season

PROGRAMME



BASINGSTOKE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SATURDAY, 26th MARCH 1983

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, BASINGSTOKE

CONDUCTOR: Stephen Scotchmer LEADER: Tim Griffiths

SOLOISTS: Tim Griffiths - Viola
 Tim Rishton - Organ

Domenico Cimarosa(1749-1801)

Overture: "The Secret Marriage"

Out of the 60 operas that Cimarosa composed, the sparkling overture to "The Secret Marriage" is one of the few numbers to remain in the popular repertoire. Its bright style reminds us of his great Austrian contemporary, Mozart. When the opera was first performed in Vienna in 1792, the Emperor ordered supper to be served and then told the performers to go through the whole opera again.

Joy Holland

Triptych for Viola & Strings

This work, which was written for tonight's soloist and the Apollo Orchestra, I.O.W., was given its first performance in 1976.

It follows the tradition of the Baroque concerto grosso, rather than the virtuoso concerto, in that it explores the relationship between the solo instrument and the larger string group, in alternation and combination of their contrasting timbres.

It has three movements, which are;

Andante - Allegro

Passacaglia

Rondo

Joy Holland began composing at school, where her first piece for string orchestra was performed. She was educated at Sheffield University where she was a pupil of Philip Lord and Stewart Deas.

She then spent some time living on the Isle of Wight where she taught at Carisbrooke High School. It was during this period that the "Triptych" was written and given its first performance.

Recent compositions include a trio sonata for flute, violin and continuo, "Diversion for Orchestra" and "A Festival Piece" - a setting of Psalm 150 for choir and orchestra.

The composer now lives in Stafford, where she is Director of Music at King Edward VI High School.

J Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Pavane pour une Infante

Many of Ravel's successful piano compositions he later arranged for orchestra - like "Mother Goose" Suite, "Le Tombeau de Couperin" and this Pavane. It was written while he was still a student at the Paris Conservatoire of Music, under the tuition of Faure, in 1889. The title refers to no specific event; it was purely an evocative phrase which fired Ravel's imagination.

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani

Written in 1938 for the Princess Edmond d'Polignac, this one-movement concerto occupies an unusual position in the organ repertoire, being composed by a non-organist. His close friend and fellow composer Maurice Duruflé planned the registrations (combinations of stops) for this concerto, the effectiveness of which gives this work great splendour and nobility.

It is conceived in the mould of a free fantasia with various contrasting sections, the opening a stately andante followed by an exuberant, almost feverish allegro. Calm and energetic writing, with the help of timpani, give us a fascinating and original piece of music.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1797-1828)

Symphony No. 6 in F "The Pastoral" Op. 68

- Allegro ma non troppo - Awakening of happy feelings upon arriving in the country.
- Andante molto mosso - Scene by the brook
- Allegro - Peasants merrymaking
- Allegro - Thunderstorm
- Allegretto - Shepherd's hymn of thanksgiving after the storm

Beethoven's decision to provide the 6th Symphony with a programmatic sketch makes it exceptional, being the first truly "modern" symphonic composition. Written in 1808, he himself gave it the name "Pastoral Symphony". It is a profound musical expression of life in the country, the life of nature. He gave an explanatory title to each of the five movements, the third, fourth and fifth lead through without a pause.

1. The opening intimates the pleasant experiences of nature: a delicate early morning atmosphere; natural life wakes up gradually. Here and there the theme is heard on various instruments; short subsidiary ideas appear and then vanish.
2. This is one of the most serenely beautiful slow movements ever written. Though in sonata form, the brook murmurs in such leisurely quavers and semi-quavers that the feeling is one of timelessness and peace. The nightingale (flute), the quail (oboe) and the cuckoo (clarinet) sing their cadenzas just before the music fades quietly away.