

Peter Warlock Society

NEWSLETTER

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WARLOCK SONGBOOK ISSUED BY THAMES

Thames Publishing have now issued their volume containing 8 hitherto unpublished Warlock songs. These are for medium voice and they have been edited by Fred Tomlinson (the Society's chairman), who contributes a detailed Preface. The songs are A lake and a fairy boat; Music, when soft voices die; The wind from the west; The water lily; I asked a thief to steal me a peach; Play-acting; Jenny Gray; and Fill the cup, Philip.

The book costs £1.50; orders on the attached form, please.

CHORAL RECORD PRAISED

The record of Warlock choral music and songs issued by Pearl in June 1972 (see Newsletters Nos 9 and 10) was reviewed in The Gramophone by Felix Aprahamian, who spoke of the excellent choice of items and concluded: 'Buy this record for the choral items, which show Herrick Bunney to be as persuasive a conductor of the Elizabethan Singers as he is of his University singers in Edinburgh'. The record is available to Society members at the special price of £2. (Order form attached)

'MERRY-GO-DOWN' STILL AVAILABLE

The 37-item Peter Warlock 'Merry-go-down' record first issued in 1970 is still available at the special price of £1.25. Artists include Ian and Jennifer Partridge and Fred Tomlinson. (Order form attached)

'THE CURLEW': ON RECORD AND IN PRINT

In issue No 10 we gave preliminary details of the important new recording of The Curlew, together with other Warlock songs for voice and instruments, that has been made by tenor James Griffett, the Haffner String Quartet, Mary Ryan and Mary Murdoch. This will be issued in February (1973) by Pearl Records, price £2.50. Copies, however, will be available to Society members at the special price of £2. If you are interested in receiving a copy as soon as available, please fill in the attached order form.

The record sleeve, with detailed notes by Fred Tomlinson, features a drawing of Warlock by Hal Collins, kindly lent by C.W. Orr.

Many members will know that for several years we have been trying to get the score of The Curlew back in print - preferably as a miniature or study score. It looks as if we may well succeed in 1973! Recent discussions with Publishing Services Partnership (of which Galliard are part) reveal that the work is definitely in their publishing programme for 1973. Full details in the next issue.

PSP are also being pressed to reprint Candlelight. If they cannot manage this in the near future, it will almost certainly be brought out by Thames Publishing, in association with PSP.

COMING, COMING

The saga of the non-appearance (so far) of Dr Ian Copley's important book on Warlock's music, the imminent publication of which we have been announcing for at least the last two years, is a tale of sloth specially hard for Dr Copley to bear and hardly less so for the rest of us. Dobson's, the publishers, have led us up the garden path so many times that we scarcely believe any dates they give. However, just before Christmas your editor managed to track down Dennis Dobson himself (a feat in itself worthy of some kind of medal). It would appear that a tie-up has at last been arranged with an American publisher, and publication can be expected in April. 1973, one should add!

AGM ON APRIL 14

The AGM will be held at 4 pm on Saturday April 14 at its usual venue - the studio at the back of 9 Bedford Gardens, off Kensington Church Street, London W8. It will be preceded, at 3 pm, by a committee meeting.

WARLOCK AT THE WIGMORE

Society member John Potter, a former chorister of King's College, Cambridge, and now a professional tenor, is giving a recital of songs and duets at the Wigmore Hall on January 17; his partner is mezzo-soprano Ameral Gunson. Included in their programme are six Warlock songs: the three Saudades, Mockery, Away to Twiver and The Fox.

TWO INTERESTING 'FINDS'

The last few months have produced two interesting Warlock 'finds'. First, Society member Peter Todd, who works for the music publishers J and W Chester, sent us two photos (reproduced on the attached sheet) which came to light in the files at Chesters. One shows (left to right) Warlock, E.J. Moeran, Constant Lambert and Hal Collins in the garden of 'The Five Bells' at Eynsford, Kent. It is similar to a photograph accompanying an article by Lambert on Warlock's songs which appeared in the Radio Times on July 1 1938, also one in one of the Nina Hamnett books.

Among a number of other Warlock items discovered by Mr Todd from the files is the information that PW was paid 2 guineas for the booklet he wrote about Moeran - Moeran likewise for his booklet about PW!

The second 'find' came in a letter from the Rev Herbert Ward at Chichester. He wrote:

You may be interested in a letter which I had from Peter Warlock in 1920. Philip Heseltine and I were at school together, firstly at Stone House, Broadstairs, then at Eton, and afterwards, early in 1914, at a 'Crammer's' at Didbrook Vicarage, in Glos. After the first war, when I was living in London, I gave him a little financial help in launching 'The Sackbut'. The letter concerns this rather ill-fated project. Would that I had kept copies of such issues as did appear. If you would care to have the letter, I would be glad to present it to the Peter Warlock Society.

Warlock's letter is most characteristic and will be included in the next newsletter.

In a later letter the Rev Ward sent a snapshot (reprinted here) showing PW on one of his many motorbikes - in this case a red 'Indian Scout'.

SOCIETY'S BROCHURE

The Society's 12-page brochure, sent to members with the last newsletter, has been fairly widely distributed to libraries, musicians and other interested parties. 'Peterborough' gave it a mention in his Daily Telegraph column; and Composer, the magazine of the Composers' Guild of Great Britain, printed a sizeable extract from it.

Extra copies of the brochure are available. Do please ask the secretary (Malcolm Rudland, c/o St Augustine's Vicarage, 117 Queens Gate, London SW7) if you would like one sent to a friend who might be persuaded to join the Society: we are always keen to increase membership.

'CODPIECES' AS INCIDENTAL MUSIC

We understand that extracts from the recording of Codpieces made by Fred Tomlinson and Jennifer Partridge were used in a recent London production, by Basil Ashmore, of a play by Anouilh.

GODALMING FILM FEATURES WARLOCK

'A Town in Trust' is an enterprising 27-minute colour film made recently by the Godalming Trust about the life of this Surrey town, in whose Busbridge Churchyard Warlock is buried. The 'Capriol Suite' and other Warlock music is featured on the soundtrack. Bernard van Dieren, Fred Tomlinson and your editor were among those at the film's London premiere.

RECORDS FOR THE BIRS

Copies of the three recent LPs of Warlock's music have recently been presented to the British Institute of Recorded Sound, in London's Exhibition Road.

MIDLANDS MERRY-GO-DOWN

We were interested to read in the Newsletter of the Delius Society about a Warlock Merry-go-down held recently by the Society's Midlands Branch. Extracts from Gray's book were read, and Warlock Society member Clive Bemrose sang some of the songs.

'CAPRIOL' FOR 20p

Trowell Stephen ~~Trowell~~ (58 Maybank Avenue, Elm Park, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 5SD) writes to say that anybody who wants an EP recording of the 'Capriol Suite' played by the Philharmonia Orchestra, under Herbert Menges, should contact him; the price is 20p, to cover post and packing.

ALEXANDER YOUNG RECITAL RECORD AVAILABLE

A copy of the now deleted Alexander Young record of The Curlew and 12 Warlock songs (Argo RG26) was recently bought by the editor from a dealer, and is available to anyone interested for £2.50.