

Peter Warlock Society

NEWSLETTER

No 15 October 1974

Editor: John Bishop 14 Barlby Road London W10 6AR (01-969 3579)

80th BIRTHDAY MERRY-GO-DOWN

Enclosed is a leaflet about the Merry-go-down at the Purcell Room on October 30. We do hope as many as possible of you will be there, not least because the programme contains some first performances. We need hardly add that the evening will be an expensive one to mount, and we do therefore hope that not only will you come but that you will bring a party of friends.

PETER WARLOCK HANDBOOK: VOLUME I

In the last issue we announced publication of Fred Tomlinson's A Peter Warlock Handbook Volume I. This is selling well and there is every chance that the edition will be completely sold out before the end of this year, if not sooner. And there is no question of a reprint. So if you haven't yet secured your copy and want one, write without delay to Triad Press, 10e Prior Bolton Street, London N1. The cost is £2.75 (including post and packing).

A number of people have been asking about Volume 2, which will be devoted to Warlock's transcriptions. Present indications are that this will appear in the autumn of 1975.

ARTICLE IN 'MUSIC AND MUSICIANS'

The October issue of Music and Musicians carried an article by Fred Tomlinson about Warlock. A reprint of the article is enclosed.

NEW PUBLICATION: 'HOMMAGES'

In 1917, Warlock, then very much under the influence of Bernard van Dieren, wrote a richly chromatic 32-bar harmonisation of 'The First Nowell' which he entitled Christmas: Hommage to B V-D. At the second Warlock memorial concert, held at the Wigmore Hall on December 4 1931, this piece was played in an arrangement for string quartet, flute, oboe and piano, made by van Dieren.

Also included in the concert was a setting by van Dieren of the moving memorial poem 'The Long Barrow' written for Warlock by his close friend Bruce Blunt.

Thames Publishing will be publishing these two items, under the title 'Hommages' in a special limited edition at the end of October. Christmas will be reproduced from Warlock's own manuscript. The Long Barrow will be in a reduction for voice and piano made by Fred Tomlinson from van Dieren's original, which was scored for voice, flute, oboe and string quartet. Fred has also contributed an introduction to the pieces.

Included with this newsletter is an order form. We would stress that this is a very limited edition.

WARLOCK NOTELETS

Enclosed with this newsletter is an example of the notelets that have been produced as a result of the enterprise of our secretary, Malcolm Rudland. We think a lot of members will want to order copies, and so enclose an order form. By today's standards the price is very reasonable. The notelets are in two versions: with Christmas greetings and without.

MORE LETTERS

Yet another set of Warlock letters has turned up (writes Fred Tomlinson). There are about 20 of them, written by Philip Heseltine to Gwen Shepherd (Mrs Kenneth Spence). They are mostly personal, but they enable us to fit together more pieces of the jig-saw puzzle.

They date from October 1922, when PH was temporarily in London visiting various publishers, until November 1930, by which time he was living in Tite Street, Chelsea ('This is my permanent address'). The later letters are mostly seasonal greetings, and with one he sent the manuscript of a song dedicated : 'To Gwen, on her birthday, August 12th 1928'. Entitled Celestina, it is in fact the song published later as The Contented Lover. There are one or two slight variations, which suggest that Celestina was the earlier version.

Other interesting items are a copy of the leaflet published by the Vine Press in October 1923, listing Peter Warlock's publications, and a print from the 'Bell and bottle' woodcut (by Hal Collins ?).

Mr and Mrs Spence were friends of Delius (Eric Fenby refers to them in his book). Our thanks are due to their two daughters, Miss W K Spence and Mrs J W L Dutton, for allowing us to see the MSS.

WARLOCK IN DERBY

The Derby Music Club are planning a Peter Warlock evening on November 12, with contributions from some of our members. Clive Bemrose is to sing several of the baritone songs. Marjorie Tapley and Robin Dodd are to sing some of the songs with string quartet accompaniment and the two duets Sorrow's Lullaby and Corpus Christi. Robert Threlfall is to play the Folk Song Preludes and Dick Kitching joins him in the piano-duet versions of Capriol and Codpieces.

This sounds an interesting and enjoyable programme. Anyone wanting more information should write to Clive Bemrose, South Sitch, Idridgehay, Derbyshire.

IAN PARTRIDGE

Ian Partridge, the principal soloist at the Merry-go-down on October 30, is singing a group of Warlock songs with string quartet at the Little Missenden Festival on October 13, accompanied by the Nash Ensemble.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Our secretary, Malcolm Rudland, has now moved to 48 Coleherne Court, The Little Boltons, London SW5 ODN, but we suggest that all Society correspondence be sent to 14 Barlby Road, London W10 6AR, from whence it can be passed to the appropriate committee member.