

PETER WARLOCK SOCIETY

President: Sir William Walton

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Peter Warlock Society

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 26

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FROM THE EDITOR

As this issue of the Newsletter follows so closely on its predecessor's heels, there is not, as you might say, a lot of news in it. A large part of it therefore consists of the revised and expanded list of photographs which the society holds; John Bishop is also contributing items on the new Partridge record and on the state of play with the various publications in the pipeline. I must take this opportunity of thanking John publicly; although no longer editor, he has continued to help in the printing of the Newsletter and his advice has been, and continues to be, invaluable. Thanks, too, to the members who have written to me, either in appreciation or with items of interest, or (especially) both.

FRESH EAR CONCERTS

Society member John Potter (tenor) who runs the intriguingly entitled Fresh Ear Concerts, is at present singing the illustrations in a lecture-recital being given in various venues up and down the country by Trevor Hold, a distinguished song-composer himself, commemorating the 50th anniversary of PW's death. One date has already taken place (University of Liverpool, November 20th); there are two more, which members may like to note:-

December 4th, 7:30

British Music Information Centre, 10, Stratford Place,
London W1.

December 12th, 7:30

University Centre, Northampton

The lecture looks at PW's work as a whole, and the illustrations cover the whole range of his work as a composer.

PURCELL ROOM CONCERT

A publicity leaflet for the Society's own concert marking the anniversary is enclosed. It can now be revealed that, as well as the items already mentioned, the following songs will be included: Consider, Play-Acting, Walking the Woods, Lullaby, Cradle Song, Take, O take those lips away (2nd version), 3 Belloc Songs, etc.,.....

Tickets are now on sale from the Festival Hall box-office and usual agents. Bring your family and friends, and be ready to sing!

LONDON BACH ORCHESTRA - CAPRIOL

Five days before our own concert, the London Bach Orchestra is including the full orchestral version of Capriol in its concert in the Queen Elizabeth Hall (Friday, December 12th), providing 20th-century leavening for an otherwise baroque and early classical programme. Again, tickets are now on sale as above.

TIMPANY FOR SALE (Members' advertisements)

A copy of the Cecil Gray biography is available from P.C. Edwards, 4, Minster Precinct, PETERBOROUGH PE1 1XS. Best offer secures; please enclose s.a.e.

PUBLICATIONS

John Bishop writes:

With almost all of PW's music coming out of copyright at the end of this year, we have been looking at the possibility of producing several collections of music that have long been out of print and are unlikely to be reprinted by the original publishers. For a variety of reasons it is necessary to be less than specific at this stage, but you can take it that 1981 will see some interesting Warlock publications - both sheet music and books - from Thames.

Apologies - yet again! - for the non-completion of the publication scheme begun several years ago and now several years behind schedule. Fred Tomlinson's heavy professional commitments in recent months have meant that he has had no time to put the finishing touches to the very considerable amount of work there has been on Warlock and Bruce Blunt, which is stuck at galley proof stage. But we are keeping our fingers crossed that Fred will have more spare time in early 1981 and that we can bring this most interesting publication to a happy conclusion - also the promised volume of PW transcriptions.

RECORDS

John Bishop writes:

The long-awaited two-disc collection of British 20th-century songs from Oxford University Press is now available. Four Oxford composers - Gurney, RVW, Delius and Warlock - have roughly equal representation in the 39 songs, and Michael Hurd provides sensitive and knowledgeable sleeve-notes; the full words are included. The record numbers are OUP I55/6 and the cost a penny under eight pounds (possibly less in some shops).

It hardly needs me to say that in Ian and Jennifer Partridge we have a team equipped both by temperament and experience to meet almost all the requirements of this wonderfully rewarding collection. Ian is in his best voice and Jennifer never puts a hand wrong - and we all know what minefields these accompaniments can be. She is, I feel, a little under-recorded, and some will feel that such a song as 'Away to Twiver' needs a racier performance from the singer. But then no singer is going to bring off all 39 songs to perfection.

The 12 Warlock songs are taken largely from the OUP first collection, so we have Passing by, Pretty ring-time, Rest sweet nymphs, Sleep and Jillian of Berry. I was particularly pleased to hear After two years - and particularly amused at the label reference to a song called Plymouth Fair.