

Ormskirk Music Society

Conductor: Jim Cooke Choral Director: Dan Adams

Winter Concert

Saturday 11 December 2021

Overture *The Abduction from the Seraglio* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

The opera *Abduction from the Seraglio* was written by Mozart at the request of Emperor Joseph the 2nd. It was premiered in 1782 and quickly enhanced Mozart's reputation across Europe. The story itself was a popular farce in Vienna in the 18th Century and was familiar to audiences. The Overture evokes comedy before the events of the plot begin, and Mozart opens with rousing percussion in the Turkish Style, incorporating the sounds of timpani, triangle and bass drum. This short overture is fast paced and exciting.

Turkish March

Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770-1827)

The Turkish March is a well known classical march theme by Beethoven in the Turkish Janissary Band style which was popular in music of the time. The theme was written by Beethoven for the Six Variations for Piano Op.76 of 1809. Later, in 1811, Beethoven wrote incidental music to a play by August von Kotzebue called *The Ruins of Athens* Op.113 which included the Turkish March. Its dynamic scheme is highly suggestive of a band passing by, beginning pianissimo, rising gradually to a fortissimo climax and receding back to pianissimo. Unusually for Beethoven the woodwinds are dominant over strings in the piece.

Symphony N.3 in D major

Franz Schubert (1797-1928)

Schubert had turned 18 years old in 1815, a year of astonishing productivity for this young composer. "There can have been scarcely a day when his pen was idle" says the Groves Dictionary. His compositions included over 100 songs, 4 operas, 2 celebrated piano sonatas and his Symphony No.3 which was written between May and July of that year. In this symphony we hear more of the influence of Haydn, Mozart and early Beethoven. The opening is a stately intro leading to an effervescent brio which then leads to a good humoured allegretto and buoyant minuet in the following two movements. The Finale brings a lively Tarantella, displaying boldness of harmonic invention and dynamics, taking its cue from Schubert's idol Beethoven.

INTERVAL

Suite: *Le Roi S'Amuse*

Leo Delibes (1836-1891)

It would appear that Leo Delibes inherited his flair for music from his mother's side of the family who were musicians. He entered the Paris Conservatoire but did not distinguish himself at the time. However, it was his natural talent that led to his great successes in Grand Opera, Operetta and of course, Ballet. In 1882 Delibes wrote incidental music to Victor Hugo's play *Le Roi S'Amuse* (The King Has Fun), which play was banned for fifty years, as censors thought it insulting to the king. The music is written in the Ancient Style, and the Pavane included, is a familiar tune which Delibes borrowed from an earlier composer, Arbeau. (Peter Warlock uses the same melody in his *Capriol Suite*). From the incidental music, Delibes formed a suite of dances described as *Six Airs de Dance dans le Style Ancien*.

- 1) *Galliard*
- 2) *Pavane*
- 3) *Scene de Bouquet*
- 4) *Lesquercade*
- 5) *Madrigal*
- 6) *Passepied*
- 7) *Finale (recap of the opening music)*

Carol: *Hark The Herald Angels Sing*

***In the Shadows* by Herman Finck (1872-1939)**

Though a German sounding name, Herman Finck was born in London in 1872. He studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama eventually becoming Musical Director at the Palace Theatre in London and remaining there for 20 years. Other posts included Theatre Royal Drury Lane, and he actually conducted many concerts in Southport Lancashire. Finck wrote a considerable corpus of music for the theatre, silent movies and the Concert Hall. *In The Shadows* was composed for the dance group *The Palace Girls* at the Palace Theatre and was also one of the last pieces played on the Titanic before it tragically sank.

***The Whistler and his Dog* by Arthur Pryor (1869-1942)**

Arthur Pryor, from St Joseph Missouri U.S.A, was a trombone virtuoso, band leader and soloist with the Sousa Band. He was a prolific composer of band music, *The Whistler and his Dog* being his best known composition.

Carol: **God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen**

American Patrol by F. W. Meacham (1856-1909)

Frank White Meacham was an American composer and arranger of Tin Pan Alley born in Brooklyn New York U.S.A. He lived and worked in New York for most of his life and many of his works were military marches, tribute pieces and early ragtime works. 'American Patrol' is his most famous piece, originally composed for the piano.

Skaters Waltz by Emile Waldteufel (1837-1915)

Emile Waldteufel was born in Strasbourg France, and, into a very musical family who moved to Paris so that their two musically gifted sons could audition for the Paris Conservatoire where they gained entrance. Emile's family had a dance band which became very popular in the Capital, and Emile's compositions soon rivalled that of Johann Strauss II in popularity. The Skaters Waltz is his most famous piece, and is very picturesque in its description.

Carol: **Oh Come All Ye Faithful**

Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

Leroy Anderson, his wife Eleanor and 18 month old daughter Jane Margareta spent the summer of 1946 in a cottage on land they'd purchased, with a view to living there in retirement, in Missouri Connecticut U.S.A. He was digging trenches to try and find old pipework to a spring, there having been a heatwave and drought. It was here he conceived the music for several pieces, including Sleigh Ride, in which he envisaged a musical depiction of the Winter Season which seemed long ago. The middle section was composed first, but later Anderson thought it unsuitable to open the piece, and, thus composed the lively opening and coda at a later date.

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,

Glory to the newborn King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail, the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.*

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.*

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,

Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
*O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy*

2. From God our heavenly father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name
O tidings etc.

3. The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessed Babe to find
O tidings etc.

4. But when to Bethlehem they came
Whereat this infant lay,
They found Him in a manger
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling
Unto the Lord did pray:
O tidings etc.

5. Now to the Lord sing praises
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface:
O tidings etc.

1. O come, all ye faithful,

Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of Angels:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him etc.

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him etc.