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1953

Programme

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UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATED
MASONIC LODGES

GRAND CONCERT

at the

TOWN HALL, BIRMINGHAM

FRIDAY, 23rd OCTOBER, 1953

AT 7-15 P.M.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE
OF
THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BRO. BEN MARSH, J.P.
PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER



W. BRO. BEN MARSH, J.P.

Message from the R.W. Provincial Grand Master

IT IS VERY GRATEFUL to me that the Province has arranged a "Grand Concert" and I wish to assure the honorary officials and members of the Committee that I and the Province are very appreciative of their efforts in this respect. I would also particularly like to mention the ladies who have acted as programme stewards, and without enumerating them, the large number who have helped in so many ways in the promotion of this Concert.

The object of the Concert is to help the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution at whose Festival in 1958 I shall have the honour of presiding. The increased costs with which we are all faced are reflected in the costs of running the Institution, and the fact that a licence has now been granted to proceed with the building of a block of modern flats at Hove, means that greater efforts will have to be made if the Institution is to continue its magnificent work. There are at present about 2,000 annuitants, most of whom live in their own homes. It is with an endeavour to make the lives easier for those who are in need of comfort in their old age that the Institution appeals for funds. The new block of flats when completed will fill a long felt need, where comfort and security will be assured.

It is therefore with confidence that I can assure you there is no charity more worthy of your support than that of helping our brethren, their widows, spinster daughters and spinster sisters in the latter years of their lives, and I trust that this Concert will not only succeed in raising a handsome sum, but will have the effect of making an impression upon your minds, so that in years to come, whenever proposals are being made for the support of our Masonic Charities the needs of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution will always have your earnest consideration.

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THE INSTITUTION was founded in 1842. It is supported by voluntary donations and provides help for those who need it in the evening of their lives. There are many who, in their old age, and often through no fault of their own, are reduced to such straits that they are justified in asking, and in this connection, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution gives annuities to needy aged Freemasons, their Widows, Spinster daughters and Spinster sisters.

When one of those mentioned have been elected to the benefits of the Institution, he or she receives a Post Office Money Order every quarter. This method of payment is convenient to them, and helps to give privacy to the fact that any assistance is being given.

In addition, there are Homes at Croydon which accommodate thirty-two annuitants, and any annuitant can apply to enter when a vacancy occurs. Each resident is given, in addition to the annuity, free fuel and light, as well as medical attendance and nursing if necessary. There is a central hall where entertainments are given, and a large garden with allotments for residents.

A site has been purchased at Hove, Sussex, where it is hoped that a block of 104 modern flats will be erected in the near future. There are at present about 2,000 annuitants, and it is estimated that the total expenditure on annuities this year will be £180,000. The assured income from investments is approximately £55,000 per annum, and for the whole of the balance £125,000 the Institution is dependent upon voluntary donations.

For some years, all qualified applicants have been granted an annuity, and if this good work is to continue, every member of the Craft must do his part in helping our Old People, otherwise there will be some deserving cases which cannot receive assistance.

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GLADYS RIPLEY

GLADYS RIPLEY showed promise at an early age and began studying the piano with a Belgian teacher, and a little later took up singing lessons. When she was fifteen Miss Ripley became a pupil of Edith Armstrong, at that time Secretary of the Royal Choral Society, and made her debut as second contralto in a performance of *Elijah* under Albert Coates. Later she was engaged as soloist for *Messiah* and *Elijah* at the Three Choirs Festival at Worcester. Since then she has been a favourite at all the great British Choral Festivals.

In addition to Oratorio, Gladys Ripley has also appeared in opera including performances of Eugene Goossens' *Don Juan* in the Covent Garden 1937 International Season. She has also sung frequently in B.B.C. opera broadcasts, including *Carmen*, *Tales of Hoffmann* and *Eugen Onegin*, and is today recognised as one of our leading singers.



THE ARDEN SINGERS

THE ARDEN SINGERS—a choir of twenty-four ladies—were formed in 1940 with the purpose of providing musical entertainment for F.M. Forces. Their work proved so successful and popular that their engagements continued after their wartime commitments were completed, and they have now given over twelve hundred concerts in all parts of England and on the continent of Europe.

The Arden Singers have broadcast frequently from Midland Region, from London and from Hilversum, and in 1946 they paid a goodwill visit to The Hague on behalf of the City of Birmingham. They are conducted by William D. S. Bennett, Principal of the Arden Academy of Music and Drama.

Part One

THE ALBERT WEBB STRING ORCHESTRA

Three Dances, *Nell Gwynn* *Edward German*

PHILIP RUSSELL (WITH PIANO)

(a) Linden Lea *Vaughan Williams*

(b) An Eriskay Love Lilt, *Songs of the Hebrides* .. *arr. Kennedy Fraser*

(c) It was a lover and his lass *Roger Quilter*

GLADYS RIPLEY (WITH ORCHESTRA)

(a) O Love from thy power
(b) Softly wake my heart } *Samson and Delilah* .. *Saint-Saens*

(c) Seguidilla, *Carmen* *Bizet*

THE ALBERT WEBB STRING ORCHESTRA

(a) Poupee Vals inte *Poldini*

(b) Pizzicato Polka *Strauss*

THE ARDEN SINGERS

(a) Art thou troubled *Handel*

(b) An old fashioned garden *Brahms*

(c) Early in the morning *Montague Phillips*

INTERVAL

Part Two

THE ALBERT WEBB STRING ORCHESTRA

Selection: Memories of Lehar arr. Hall

GLADYS RIPLEY (WITH PIANO)

- (a) Hills Frank La Forge
- (b) I have twelve oxen John Ireland
- (c) I love thee Greig

THE ARDEN SINGERS

- (a) O Lovely night Landon Ronald
- (b) The early morning Graham Peel
- (c) If my songs were only winged Reynaldo Hahn
- (d) Arise O Sun Maude Craske Day

PHILIP RUSSELL (WITH ORCHESTRA)

- (a) Serenade, *Fair Maid of Perth* } Bizet
- (b) Flower Song, *Carmen* }

FULL COMPANY

Finale: *Merrie England*

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

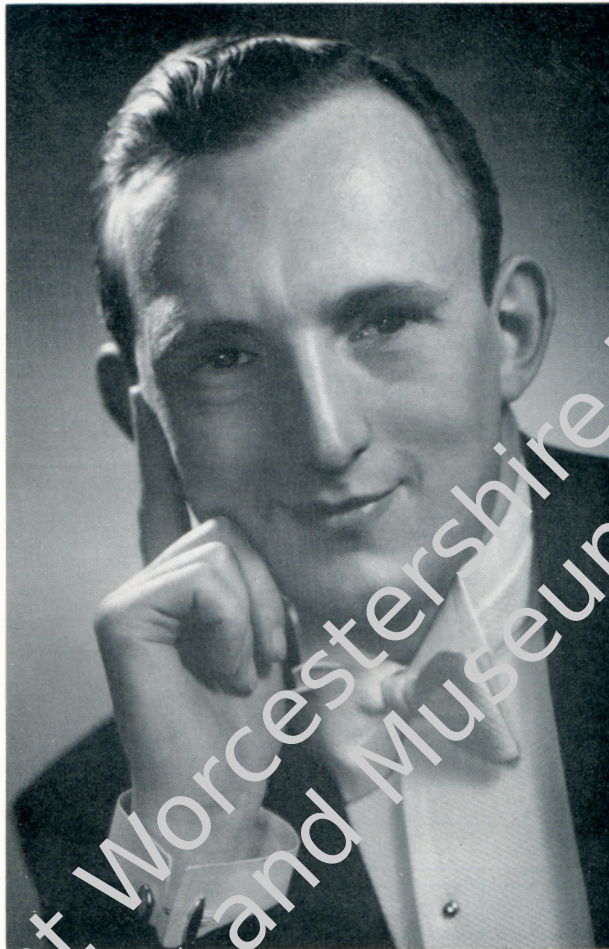


ALBERT WEBB

ALBERT WEBB was born in Walsall and commenced his early musical education at the Birmingham and Midland Institute under Sir Granville Bantock, later studying the pianoforte under Maurice Cole. Mr. Webb is well known as a pianist and accompanist with the B.B.C. and has written much original music for radio productions.

Since its formation the String Orchestra, besides giving some 200 broadcasts, has given public concerts in many Midland towns and achieved a considerable reputation.

Mr. Webb lives in Malvern and derives much inspiration from the "Elgar" countryside. His hobby—Music!



PHILIP RUSSELL

PHILIP RUSSELL is a young lyric tenor. Born in 1928, he commenced his musical studies in pianoforte playing at the age of six. Upon winning a scholarship some years later, it was discovered that he possessed a very musical treble voice. During this period, however, he continued his pianistic studies until he was called up for service with H.M. Forces, and it was during this "engagement" that his tenor voice developed, and many concerts at Forces centres throughout the country soon followed.

In the Spring of 1950 he successfully passed an audition with the B.B.C. and became a regular member of the Midland Chorus, and in January, 1952, was offered a Tenor position with the B.B.C. Midland Singers.

Solo work in Oratorio and on the Concert platform began steadily to increase and he has already sung in many parts of the country with leading figures of the Musical World.



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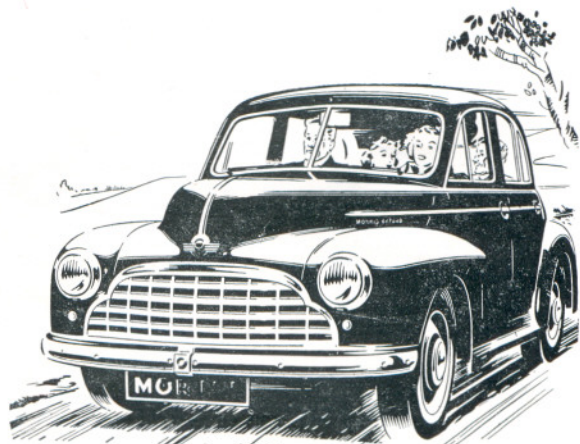
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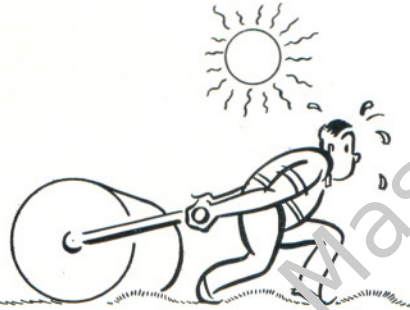
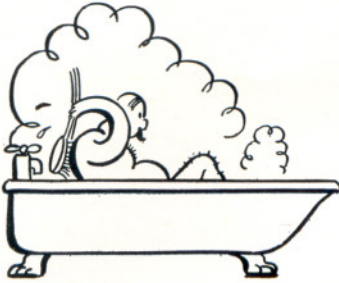
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