

Southwell u3a Music Lovers Group – 1 July 2020

YouTube links are provided for each item or the playlist for all the pieces is at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEKsMz37AkY&list=PLQHiO9b3Dnlu8xuUBeG8dE7SfeP8G3HfP>

Or Search YouTube for John Tebbs and find my channel and this programme is under the Playlists tab as Southwell u3a Music 200701 along with other u3a Music Lovers programmes from January 2020. This time I have referenced some interesting programme notes from the internet.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 -1827) Piano Concerto No5 in E flat major Op 73

There follow two versions, one by an established player András Schiff and the second by Alina Bercu with a University Orchestra.

András Schiff Cappella Andrea Barca 43:29

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEKsMz37AkY&t=146s>

Orchestra of the University of Music FRANZ LISZT Weimar 39:12

Conductor: Nicolás Pasquet, Alina Bercu, piano

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TiYGxOQDYw>

Programme Notes for Beethoven Piano Concerto No 5 can be found at

<https://nyphil.org/~media/pdfs/program-notes/1819/Beethoven-Piano-Concerto-No-5.pdf>

Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828) - Piano Quintet in A major D.667 "Trout" in D Major D667

Berliner Philharmoniker Soloists, Yannick Rafalimanana Piano 40:58

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWDHtlqgwMY&t=723s>

Programme Notes for the Trout Quintet can be found at

<https://www.whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk/programme-notes-trout-quintet/>

Kathleen Ferrier

Kathleen Mary Ferrier, CBE (22 April 1912 – 8 October 1953) was an English contralto singer who achieved an international reputation as a stage, concert and recording artist, with a repertoire extending from folksong and popular ballads to the classical works of Bach, Brahms, Mahler and Elgar. Her death from cancer, at the height of her fame, was a shock to the musical world and particularly to the public, which was kept in ignorance of the nature of her illness until after her death. So lovely and evocative to hear her once familiar voice again.

Blow the Wind Southerly – Northumbrian Folk Song Arr W.G. 2:31

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-Z8cmo7cbs>

What is Life to me Without You – From Orpheo and Euridice by Gluck 4:34

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8F6JtfW5NL4>

Ombra mai fù from Xerses by G F Handel 3:38

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4wTylAZhxw>

Pytor Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893) Francesca da Rimini, op.32
Royal Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra
Conductor Semyon Bychkov, Klemperer Chair in Conducting
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmKymqHg4ak>

27:49

This is a piece, recommended by Peter Hughes I had not heard before and is very dramatic and well played by these young musicians of The Royal Academy.

What an uncertain life they may face.

Programme notes at http://en.tchaikovsky-research.net/pages/Francesca_da_Rimini
of which the following is an extract:

Based on La Divina Commedia (ca.1310–14) by Dante Alighieri (ca.1265–1321)
Tchaikovsky wrote out a detailed programme at the start of his manuscript score of the fantasia:

Dante, accompanied by Virgil's ghost, descends into the second circle of the Hellish abyss. Here the walls echo with cries of despair. Amid the Stygian gloom is a fantastic storm. Violent, Hellish whirlwinds carry away tormented souls. Out of the countless spinning earthly spirits, Dante notices two in particular: Francesca and Paolo, who are locked in an embrace. Dante calls out to these tortured souls and asks them for what terrible crimes they were being punished. Francesca's spirit, drenched with tears, recounts their pitiful tale. She was in love with Paolo, but against her will she was forced to marry the hateful brother of her beloved, the hunchbacked, twisted tyrant of Rimini. Despite his violent jealousy, he was not able to wrest Francesca's heart from her passion for Paolo. Together one day they read the story of Lancelot. "We were one", recounts Francesca. "And after reading this we no longer felt the fear and confusion that had marked our previous meetings. But that one moment destroyed us. By the time we reached Lancelot's first chance of love, nothing could now part us. In a moment of weakness we openly expressed our clandestine love for one another, throwing ourselves in each other's arms". At this moment Francesca's husband returned unexpectedly and stabbed her and Paolo to death. And after telling this, Francesca's spirit, and that of Paolo, were snatched away in the raging whirlwind. Overwhelmed by the endless suffering, Dante, completely exhausted, falls dead" — Inferno. Poem by Dante. Canto V [2].

The author's programme was also printed in the concert programme for the first performance of the fantasia in Moscow, but not in the published score, which was prefaced only by a few lines and a short quotation from Dante's poem.

Edward Elgar (1857-1934) The Dream of Gerontius, Op. 38

1:31:07

London Symphony Orchestra Conductor Benjamin Britten

London Symphony Chorus (Chorus-Master: Arthur Oldham)

The Choir of King's College, Cambridge, dir. David Willcocks)

Request by Jan White who sang in the chorus at this performance and particularly wished to hear Praise to the Holiest, which is also included in video from Southwell Music Festival 2016.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYGBtmjnFec&t=3636s>

Peter Pears (Gerontius), tenor

Yvonne Minton (The Angel), mezzo-soprano

John Shirley-Quirk (Priest, Angel of Agony), bass-baritone

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Part I

1. Prelude 0:00
2. Jesu, Maria - I am near to death 9:57
3. Rouse Thee, My fainting soul
4. Sanctus Fortis, Sanctus Deus
5. Proficiscere, Anima christiana

Part II

1. I went to sleep
2. It is a member of that family
3. But hark! Upon my sense comes a fierce hubbub
4. I see not those false spirits
5. But Hark! A grand mysterious harmony (Soul of Gerontius)
6. Thy judgement now is near (Angel)
7. I go before my judge (Soul of Gerontius)
8. Softly and gently, dearly ransomed Soul (Angel)

Programme Notes at

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3/classical/elgar/notes/note_gerontius.shtml#:~:text=The%20central%20character%2C%20Gerontius%20\(the,committed%20to%20Purgatory%20for%20purification.](https://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3/classical/elgar/notes/note_gerontius.shtml#:~:text=The%20central%20character%2C%20Gerontius%20(the,committed%20to%20Purgatory%20for%20purification.)

Extracts of the Dream of Gerontius from Southwell Music Festival 2016

Overture	9:25
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnZSvPSrG-g	
Praise to the Holiest	8:25
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2jszmWduUg	
Demons Chorus	5:02
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUaNDrSnUFM	

Performed and recorded in the Southwell Minster Nave with the Festival Voices, Festival Sinfonia and Artistic Director Marcus Farnsworth.

Three outstanding soloists, who each enjoy a growing international reputation on the opera and concert stage and in the recording studio, take the solo parts:

The exciting young tenor David Butt Philip sings Gerontius
Mezzo-soprano Anna Stéphany takes the part of the Angel
The bass soloist is David Soar.