



USA MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP



MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP 4th NEWSLETTER

At the first session of our fourth gathering on 15th January 2009 Keith presented a selection of instrumental and vocal music from 1500-1625. Keith also showed how several Romantic composers used Renaissance music in their own works.

There were diverse reactions to this session. Two of the group enjoyed all of the 25 pieces, whereas one commented that the majority of the pieces were “not my cup of tea”. The ranking of the individual pieces that members of the group enjoyed has been produced on a separate sheet and will be available at the 19th February meeting. Generally, modern arrangements fared well, and madrigals were less popular.

The second session comprised music by Beethoven including his first published work the Opus1 No1 Piano trio followed by an excerpt from his 3rd Symphony (*Eroica*), the fifth movement of the 6th Symphony (*Pastoral*) and ended with a small portion of the last movement of his 9th Symphony (*Choral*).

Discussion on Arrangements for Future Sessions

After the break we had a discussion on content and format of future sessions. It was agreed that a variety of sessions will be prepared on:

- Specific composers (their life, times and works)
- Specific major works in detail (e.g. for forthcoming concerts)
- Specific periods (classical, baroque, renaissance, romantic etc)
- Other themes (e.g. Christmas, Easter, the sea, animals, musical families etc)
- Occasional fun quizzes.

We will continually need suggestions from the group on the composers, themes or periods that you would like us to cover, as well as contributions from your own music collections.

The group requested Keith and I select two or three options for concerts to attend. We have now selected two local orchestral concerts for consideration, details of which are given on page 3. Please let us know your preferences, using the form attached.

The timing of our meetings will be adjusted as follows:

- 9.45 am start for coffee and chat
- 10.00 prompt: first music session starts
- 11.10 approx: first music session and discussion ends. Members collect tea/coffee (maximum 10 minutes break)
- 11.20 approx second music session starts
- 12.30 pm: End.

Future Sessions

The next session will be on 19th February. You will be pleased to know that Keith and I have adopted a new method that will avoid equipment glitches with the “black beast”.

Starting promptly at 10.00 Keith will present a range of Chinese music in response to suggestions from group members and to coincide (almost) with Chinese New Year. This will include an introduction to Chinese instruments, but the main features will be two Chinese concertos in the romantic style for western philharmonic orchestras.

After the coffee/tea break I will feature major works by Brahms, including the Violin Concerto and the Academic Festival Overture. I intend bringing along my **Violin** and **Viola** in order to show members the construction of the instruments and the technique required to play them. If any member of the group would like to bring along a CD/Minidisc/Vinyl record or video/DVD of their favourite Brahms and/or Chinese piece please let me know as soon as possible (484099) so that we can fit it into the programme.

A preliminary programme for future sessions is provided below. This will be adjusted as we go along to incorporate concerts and suggestions from group members.

| Month | Keith | Brian |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 19 Feb 09 | Chinese classical | Brahms |
| 19 March | Musical families | Wagner |
| 16 Apr | Fun musical quiz on animals, birds and insects | Easter music including Stainer`s - The Crucifixion |
| 21 May | Beethoven Piano Concerto No.4 and Mendelssohn Symphony No.5 ** | Tchaikovsky |

**preparation for City of London Sinfonia concert at Wycombe Swan on 24 May

Possibilities for next year:

Composers: Schubert, Sibelius, Schumann, Elgar Glazunov, Verdi, Arne, Hummel, Parry, Bruch, Dvorak, Grieg Purcell, Vaughan Williams, Saint-Saens, Mahla

Topics and Individual Works: Jazz1, Jazz2, The Sea, Film music, 18th century concertos, Chamber music 1850-1920 Romantic piano concertos Elgar Symphony No1, and works relating to forthcoming concerts.

Don`t forget if you have a friend who likes to listen to good music **BRING THEM ALONG!**

Happy listening!

Brian Humphrey

Concert Options

We have selected the following two options for a local orchestral concert:

Option 1: Sunday 24th May 2009 at 7:30 pm at Wycombe Swan

City of London Sinfonia

Haydn Symphony No 44 in E minor (*Trauer*)

Beethoven Piano Concerto No.4

Soloist: John Lill who is renowned for his aristocratic interpretations of Beethoven

Mendelssohn Symphony No. 5 (*Reformation*)

Tickets: £19, £17, £15, £12 (Concessions £1.50 off)

Following the death of Richard Hickox, the conductor has yet to be confirmed. Either the conductor or John Lill will give a pre-concert talk.

Option 2: Saturday 11th July 2009 at 7:45 pm at Dr. Challoner's High School, Little Chalfont

The Misbourne Orchestra *Conductor Richard Jacklin*

Nielsen Helios overture

Dvorak Cello concerto in B minor *Soloist: Nicola Tait*

Elgar Enigma Variations

Tickets: £10

We can provide digital scores of the major works (Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Dvorak, Elgar) to those who would like to study them.

Marlow U3A Music Appreciation Group

Name: _____

Please ✓ the appropriate box(es)

I would like to attend Concert Option 1 at Wycombe Swan on 24th May

I would like to attend Concert Option 2 at Little Chalfont on 11th July

I would like to attend both Concerts

I do not wish to attend any Concerts

Please complete this slip and return it to Brian at the next session