

COMMUNITY NEWS - Tuesday 12 March 2024

IPSWICH ARTS ASSOCIATION with CHRIS GREEN

I seem to spend my life working with words – writing pieces like this, preparing lectures and presentations, and so it is not surprising that I have long held a fascination for words and their meanings. It started at school when I played in the school orchestra and one of the pieces was a tune titled *My love's an arbutus*. No one ever explained what an “arbutus” was. I thought it was a mediaeval siege weapon – an arquebus -, but it turns out to be a strawberry tree featured in a set of lyrics with Irish roots. Then there was the case of one of my near contemporaries who was strongly into drama asking me, “Hey Green, you know a bit about music- what's the meaning of “terrapunic?”. I searched in my small music library for what the answer, but came up with nothing.

What was “terrapunic”? Many years later I then realised that at the time I was first asked, the film *High Society* was released and in it, Louis Armstrong sings in the opening sequence about jazz, and “terrapunic” was really “therapeutic”. It was just the way it was spoken. I never got a chance to tell my school acquaintance. Years later I think he produced *High Society* for the London stage. His name was Trevor Nunn, now Sir Trevor. So, if you ever read this column Trevor, I have the answer for you!

What has brought on these confessions? Well, a CD featuring the bassoon and orchestra has come my way. One of the pieces is called *The Playful Packyderm* from which the album takes its name (Hyperion CDA 67453). So, although the sleeve liner note explains that it is a kind of mythical animal, the definition is of a mammal with a thick skin. I know plenty of them, but none make the pleasant noise heard from the bassoon in this delightful selection of 18 short piece with Laurence Perkins as soloist with The New London Orchestra conducted by Ronald Corp. The selection proves the versatility of the instrument- not just in the fun items, but also the heart-searching compositions such as Elgar's *Romance*, and Fauré's *Piece*.

Hadleigh Choral Society performs Haydn's oratorio *The Seasons* in the original German libretto on Saturday 23 March at 7pm at St. Mary's Church, Hadleigh. This late-career masterpiece sets to music the range of powerful moods and activities traditionally associated with all four seasons. Soloists Alys Roberts, Richard Symons and Owain Browne, and the Colchester Symphony Orchestra join the Society with conductor Christopher Phelps. Tickets are £16 (free admission for those in full time education) and will be available on line.hadleighchoralsociety.org.uk or from the Idler Bookshop, Hadleigh.



Anglia Singers in concert. Photo: Graham Arber.

Fauré is the principal composer in the programme I am conducting next Sunday 24 March at 4pm with the Choir of Anglia Ruskin University. The one-hour programme includes Fauré's setting of the *Requiem* and his *Cantique de Jean Racine* as well as the Coronation Anthem written by Andrew Lloyd Webber for last year's event. The concert takes place at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Braintree and tickets are available costing £8, with children being admitted for free.

The next day, the Woodbridge Orchestral Society gives a concert in the town. The Society gives one public concert at the end of the spring term each year, and this season's concert will take place on Monday March 25th. Woodbridge Orchestral Society presents *Heroes and Heroines*: a programme of music by Borodin, Delibes, Offenbach, Prokofiev, Saint-Saens and Schubert. The concert, conducted by Jonathan Abbott, will take place on Monday March 25th 2024 at 7.30pm at Woodbridge Methodist Church, St John's Street IP12 1ED. Entry is free, with retiring donations for church repairs.



*James Abbott - conducting Woodbridge Orchestral Society.
Credit: WOS.*

If you have a story to share with other organisations, please email IAA chairperson, Professor Chris Green at: cjc.green@talktalk.net
