

The Spirit of England

News from the English Music Festival

Issue 1 - December 2004



Bringing England's rich musical heritage to life

**The English Music Festival
Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire
October 2006**

From the exquisitely crafted songs of Quilter and Warlock through to the lush, rich, romantic masterpieces of Vaughan Williams and Bax, the brilliantly characteristic works of Holst, and Moeran's haunting and evocative melodies, Great Britain has produced some of the most dramatic and inspirational music the world has ever known.

Although Elgar's great symphonies and Britten's powerful operas are well represented in the concert hall and opera house, much of the finest English music is unjustly neglected – giving way to works by foreign composers of lesser merit. For example, in 10 years of Promenade concerts, from 1992 to 2001, more time was allocated by the BBC to the music of Kurt Weill than to Stanford, Parry, Delius, Walton, Bax, Moeran, Purcell and Holst put together.

The English Music Festival will rectify this great injustice and bring back to the repertoire many pieces that should never have fallen from favour and that are just as exciting and uplifting as any of the music that is routinely played in the concert halls today.

Five days of English Music

The inaugural festival will take place in and around the medieval abbey of Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, in October 2006. Five days of concerts and recitals by leading artists will bring England's rich musical heritage to life.



Dorchester Abbey

Featuring music from the Middle Ages to the present day, the EMF will present a very broad and diverse repertoire, including contemporary works in the classical tradition as well as a variety of English folk music that should broaden the festival's appeal and draw in younger audiences. The music will be complemented by a range of educational and literary activities, arts and crafts, and the finest English food and wine.

The main focus of the festival programme, however, will be the music of the early twentieth century – that golden renaissance of English music – and will include neglected pieces by hugely talented English composers such as York Bowen, Boughton, Holbrooke, Cliffe, Bantock, Howells and Bainton.

The English Music Festival will be an annual festival and we are confident that it will become a highlight of every year for music-lovers. Aimed at both local and international audiences, the festival aims to 'put English music back on the map' – re-awakening interest in the works of Britain's composers and restoring them to their rightful place in the concert hall repertoire.

Festival Programme – October 2006 – "Heirs and Rebels"

Time / Date	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
11.00 to 12.30		Norris <i>Think only this</i> Ireland <i>Piano trio No. 2</i> <i>Sonata for cello and piano in G minor</i>	English Solo Song recital	Elgar <i>Piano music</i>	York Bowen <i>Viola sonatas</i>
14.30 to 16.30		Holst <i>Part songs</i>	Bax <i>Septet</i> Moeran <i>String quartet in A minor</i>	Purcell <i>Come ye songs of Art</i> Britten <i>Serenade</i>	Armstrong Gibbs <i>Suite for strings</i> Rutter <i>Suite</i> Holst <i>Brook Green Suite</i>
		Holst <i>The Coming of Christ</i>	Moeran <i>String quartet in E</i> Elgar <i>Piano quintet in A minor</i>	Lambert <i>Piano concerto</i>	Orr <i>Cotswold Hill Tune</i> Bridge <i>Suite for strings</i> Holst <i>St. Paul's Suite</i>
interval					
17.30 to 22.00	<i>National Anthem</i> Vaughan Williams <i>Oxford Elegy</i> Bantock <i>Thalaba the Destroyer</i>	Bridge <i>There is a Willow</i> Elgar <i>Piano concerto</i>	Holbrooke <i>Ulalume</i> Bainton <i>The Golden River</i>	Holst <i>Indra</i> Vaughan Williams <i>Flos Campi</i>	Holbrooke <i>Bronwen Overture</i> Holst <i>Choral Fantasia</i>
	Holst <i>First Choral Symphony</i>	Holst <i>Cloud Messenger</i>	Gardiner <i>Comedy overture</i> Scott <i>Cello concerto</i>	Butterworth <i>Two English Idylls</i> York Bowen <i>Symphony No. 2</i>	Howells <i>Missa Sabrinensis</i>
interval					
22.30 to 23.15	Dufay Collective	Festival Banquet	Britten <i>Canticles 1 and 2</i>	Lute and guitar music	Britten <i>Curlew River</i>

Opening Concert

Festival Programme – October 2007 – "Spirit of England"

Time / Date	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
11.00 to 12.30		English Solo Song recital	Howells <i>Psalm Rhapsodies</i>	Bax <i>Solo piano music</i>	William Lloyd Webber, Quilter, Warlock, Moeran, Gurney, etc. <i>Songs</i>
14.30 to 16.30	Milford <i>Fishing by Moonlight</i> <i>Elegy for James Scott</i> Elgar <i>Serenade for strings</i>	Stanford <i>Songs of the Sea</i> <i>(baritone, chorus and piano)</i>	The Cobbett Legacy Friskin <i>Phantasy quintet</i> Goossens <i>Phantasy quartet</i>	Ludford	
	Parry <i>English Suite</i> Boughton <i>Concerto for string orchestra</i>	Grainger <i>Kipling settings</i> Dibdin, Elgar, Austin <i>Naval Songs</i>	Norman O'Neill <i>Piano trio</i> Haydn Wood <i>String Phantasy</i> Hurlstone <i>Quartet</i>	Fayfax	
interval					
17.30 to 22.00	<i>National Anthem</i> Farrar <i>First Rhapsody</i> Elgar <i>Spirit of England</i>	Clifford <i>Shanagolden</i> Dyson <i>Quo Vadis</i>	Mac Cunn <i>Land of the Mountain and the Flood</i> Coleridge Taylor <i>Violin Concerto</i>	Britten <i>Ballad of Heroes</i> Delius <i>Appalachia</i>	Mackenzie <i>Benedictus</i> Elgar <i>Enigma Variations</i>
	Parry <i>Soul's Ransom</i> Parry <i>Jerusalem</i>	Dyson <i>Quo Vadis</i>	Parry <i>Overture to an Unwritten tragedy</i> Cliffe <i>First Symphony</i>	Finzi <i>Intimations of Immortality</i>	Holst <i>Beni Mora</i> Parry <i>Symphony No. 4</i>
interval					
22.30 to 23.15	Holst <i>Dream City</i>	Festival Banquet	Britten <i>Canticles 3, 4 and 5</i>	Byrd and Tallis	Holst <i>The Evening watch</i> <i>Nunc Dimittis</i>

Opening Concert

Festival Programme – October 2008 – "The Celtic Connection"

Time / Date	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
11.00 to 12.30		English Solo Song recital	Elgar <i>First Symphony, piano version</i>	Organ recital	English Song Recital
14.30 to 16.30		Bantock <i>In the far West</i> Biss <i>Pastoral</i>	New work	Thomas Armstrong <i>Choral songs</i>	Gibbs <i>Dale and Fell</i> Bridge <i>The Two Hunchbacks</i> Holst <i>Brook Green Suite</i>
		Ireland <i>Downland Suite</i> Howells <i>Suite for String Orchestra</i>	Elgar / Holst <i>Part songs</i>	Moeran <i>Choral songs</i>	Bridge <i>There is a Willow</i> Finzi <i>Clarinet concerto</i>
interval					
17.30 to 22.00	<i>National Anthem</i> Seamus O'Brien <i>Overture</i> Harty <i>Irish Symphony</i>	Gardiner <i>April</i> Rawsthorne <i>Practical Cats</i>	Norman O'Neill <i>In Autumn</i> Bainton <i>English Idyll</i> McEwen <i>Grey Galloway</i> Coronach	Bantock <i>Overture to a Greek tragedy</i> Boughton <i>Midnight</i>	Harty <i>With the wild geese</i> Foulds <i>Three Manta</i>
	Stanford <i>Irish Rhapsody No. 4</i> Bantock <i>Hebridean Symphony</i>	Britten <i>World of the Spirit</i>	Sainton <i>The Island</i> Millford <i>Symphony</i>	Bantock <i>The song of songs</i>	Bax <i>A Legend</i> Moeran <i>Symphony</i>
interval					
22.30 to 23.15	Dowland	Festival Banquet	Taverner	Dufay Collective	Holst <i>Savitri</i>

Opening Concert

All programmes are provisional and subject to change.

Leading musicians sign up for the festival

World-renowned cellist (and EMF vice-president) Julian Lloyd Webber, pianist Ashley Wass, singers Catherine Bott, Andrew Watts and Della Jones, and conductor Nicholas Cleobury are among the latest artists who have signed up to take part in our first festival.

They join top artists, ranging from the Dufay Collective, the Orchestra of St John's, to pianist



Julian Lloyd Webber

David Owen Norris, and singers Stephen Varcoe and Peter Savidge.



Bramwell Tovey

The Music Director for the festival is Bramwell Tovey, Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Luxembourg Philhamonic Orchestra and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

Top-level support

The EMF is delighted to welcome on board several distinguished new Vice-Presidents. They include parliamentarian Lord Salisbury, businessman Lord Chadlington, conductor Sir Roger Norrington, astronomer and composer Sir Patrick Moore, and the philosopher and writer Professor Roger Scruton.

An Advisory Committee, including Peter Ainsworth MP, Stephen Layton, Peter Savidge, Raphael Terroni and Paul Spicer, meets regularly in Westminster to provide support and guidance, while a small team of volunteers helps with the day-to-day running of the organisation. More help is needed, however, and if you feel you could offer your administrative services, or would like to be involved in fund-raising, please contact us.

The Friends of the English Music Festival will be launched early in 2005, offering various levels of individual and corporate membership. Please indicate on the form on the back page if you would like to receive further details of the Friends scheme.

EMF gains charitable status

The English Music Festival Company Ltd has recently been granted charitable status by the Charity Commission for England & Wales. Our registered charity number is 1107065. Donations are always welcome, and because of our charitable status they are now tax-deductable. Please ask for a Gift Aid form.

Vice-Presidents of the EMF:

The Most Hon The Marquess of Salisbury - Lord Armstrong of Ilminster - Lord Chadlington of Dean
Sir Simon Jenkins - Professor Sir Patrick Moore - Sir Roger Norrington - Sir Rowland Whitehead
Lady Bliss - Felix Aprahamian - Paul Guinery - Julian Lloyd Webber - Henry Kelly
Michael Kennedy - Professor Roger Scruton - Ursula Vaughan Williams

Gift Aid

Help The English Music Festival make more from your donation with Gift Aid. Every £100 donated is worth £128 to the EMF (at current tax rates).

For every £1 given, we can reclaim an additional 28p at no extra cost to you (if you are a UK tax payer). In order to qualify, this donation form must be filled out in **FULL** - below with details of your donation including the **DATE GIVEN** and **overpage** with your **NAME, HOME ADDRESS** and **POSTCODE**.

The information given is for tax purposes only. It will remain confidential and will not be used for mailing.

Declaration: I want The English Music Festival to reclaim tax on my donation. I am a UK resident tax payer and pay tax equal to or more than the tax deducted from my donation. I have ticked the Gift Aid box below.

Please complete and return to the EMF at the address overpage.

Donation Form

- please tick to confirm that you wish to make your donation with **Gift Aid**
- please tick to confirm that you have completed the details required overpage

Full Name:

.....

Date of Donation:

.....

Amount of Donation:

£

Signature:

.....

To be completed by The English Music Festival:

Date money received

Total amount of Gift Aid Donation: £

x $\frac{22}{78}$ = Tax Reclaimable £

Charity Registration No: 1107065

Please complete and return to:

Em Marshall
English Music Festival
34 Ponsonby Terrace
London SW1P 4QA

Or send an email to
em.marshall@btinternet.com

I would like to:

(please tick)

- join the EMF mailing list
- receive information on being an EMF Friend
- help with finding and approaching sponsors
- help with administrative work
- discuss a possible link with my company/organisation
- steward during the festival
- give a donation

please use the Gift Aid form on page 3 and complete the details below.

Name:

.....

Company/Organisation *(if applicable)*

.....

.....

Address:

.....

.....

Postcode

Telephone:

.....

Mobile:

.....

Email:

.....

Bringing the message to a wider public


The English Music Festival has already received very positive coverage in publications ranging from This England and Classic FM Magazine to the journals of the English Folk Dance & Song Society and numerous composer societies. Now that the plans for the inaugural festival are well advanced, and we are close to confirming programme dates and artists, a major nationwide publicity push is planned for the early part of 2005.

In the meantime, the EMF website continues to attract thousands of visitors, and we are continually bombarded with letters, emails and phone calls expressing support for the festival mission and requesting further information.

We are also in touch with a number of companies and organisations regarding sponsorship of the EMF. Corporate sponsorship is absolutely crucial to make the festival a success. Unfortunately, many companies have indicated that they do not wish to be associated with anything that they perceive as too English, preferring instead to foster an international image. Others have abandoned sponsorship of classical music to focus on more populist interests. At this stage, we still need a main sponsor. Even though the first festival is not scheduled to take place until October 2006, it is essential to have the bulk of funding in place by the end of 2005 in order to fulfil contractual obligations with the orchestras and other performers.

This is a tremendous challenge and your help is urgently needed. If you are able to assist the EMF in identifying and / or approaching potential sponsors or donors, please contact me. Equally, if you think you might be able to assist the charity by donating services or goods, I would be delighted to hear from you.

I wish all our supporters a very merry Christmas and a happy new year, and I look forward to hearing from you in 2005.



Em Marshall
Managing & Artistic Director



Published by The English Music Festival Company Ltd, a Company Limited by Guarantee
No. 4654387, Reg. Charity No. 1107065. Registered Address: 34 Ponsonby Terrace, London SW1P 4QA.

Telephone: 020 7834 5743 / 07808 473889

www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk