

THE PETER WARLOCK SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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WARLOCK/MOERAN PLAQUE TO BE UNVEILED ON MAY 3

At 3pm on Saturday May 3, Professor Eric Fenby, OBE, will unveil a plaque on the wall of the cottage in Eynsford High Street, Kent (now occupied by S.H. Munn and Son) which Peter Warlock and E.J. Moeran shared from 1925-8. Following the unveiling there will be a concert of music by the two composers, given in Eynsford Hall by the Figaro Ensemble with Wynford Evans (tenor). The programme will include Warlock's song-cycle The Curlew, songs by both composers, and Moeran's Oboe Quartet.

The concert is part of the 1969 Dartford Rural District Arts Festival and is being presented in association with the Peter Warlock Society. The Society will be running a stall at which music by both composers will be on sale.

Tickets are 1 guinea each and can be obtained from the Arts Centre, St. John's, London Road, Swanley, Kent (Swanley 2330) or at the door.

Warlock wrote some of his best songs while living at Eynsford; Sigh no more, dedicated to Moeran, is one of them. On three occasions the two men collaborated. Moeran collected the folk tune which Warlock arranged as Yarmouth Fair. Moeran, in turn, arranged Mrs Dyer, the baby-farmer, a tune which Warlock collected. The song Maltworms was a joint production, written in a single afternoon at Eynsford as music for a performance by the dramatic society in the nearby village of Shoreham. All four of these songs will be included in the programme on May 3.

Travel On a Saturday, Eynsford is served directly by trains on the Blackfriars - Sevenoaks line. Trains at 21 and 51 minutes past the hour - journey takes 48 mins. For those going by car, Eynsford is on the A 225 (Dartford - Sevenoaks) close to the Farningham round-about. It can also be approached via the A 20. It is 20 miles from London, 8 from Sevenoaks and 6 from Dartford.

SOCIETY'S AGM

The Society's AGM was held on February 1, when the committee was re-elected en bloc. Attached to this newsletter is the chairman's report. Copies of the Hon. Treasurer's report are available to anyone interested; the main point is that because of the financially disastrous V and A Museum concert sponsored by the Society, we finished up over £70 in the red, despite loans from committee members and various donations.

WARLOCK MSS SOLD

The Society's Hon Secretary, Bernard van Dieren, who is the son of Warlock's teacher, kindly made available three Warlock manuscripts for auction, to help Society funds. The original idea was that these should be auctioned at the Merry-go-down held last December, but in the event this proved impossible. They have since been bought by a Society member, Mr L R Pearson, of the Music Department, Bede College, Durham, and we are most grateful to him for his interest. The manuscripts in question were:

- a) a fragment of the song Heraclitus, in Warlock's own hand
- b) a transcription of Dowland's song White as lilies, partly in Warlock's hand
- c) part of van Dieren's song Der Asra, mainly in Warlock's hand.

Mr Pearson is, incidentally, hoping to hold an all-Warlock concert at Bede College later this year.

WARLOCK PAINTING COMES TO LIGHT

The Kentish Times recently carried a news item about a portrait of Warlock painted 40 years ago by an amateur artist, Robert Stockley, now of Farningham, Kent, but then living at Eynsford. Mr Stockley still has the painting, and in an interview with the newspaper told how he came to paint it. The painting appears to be about 12" by 18", and a good likeness. The Society has approached Mr Stockley to see if he might be interested in selling it, so that it could then be put on permanent display.

In the interview Mr Stockley said he painted the portrait on a piece of hard-board as he couldn't afford canvas at the time. Warlock apparently never saw the finished portrait. 'I took quite some time to paint Peter but I enjoyed every minute of it. He was a fine chap and I always saw him as the perfect study of Christ. He was 6ft. tall, graceful, and wore a long flowing cloak and sandals and had this golden beard....He was always one for a lark, a bit of fun, but he was a very humane man too. He loved the village people and would like nothing better than talking to them!

Mr Stockley is sure that Warlock found a lot of his inspiration in the village of Eynsford as it then was. 'Talking to the village characters and the country people, he got a lot, I'm sure. He loved the country'. The painting was done mostly in the lounge of the Castle Hotel.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.....

Mr. Malcolm Rudland, a member of the Committee, has arranged for some Warlock choral songs to be included in a students' concert at the Royal Academy of Music on May 21. Mr Rudland makes his debut as a conductor at the RAM on May 12.

Dr I.A. Copley, the Society's Hon. Treasurer, has now moved to 2 Coldean Lane, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 9GD.

Dr. Copley's book The Music of Peter Warlock: A Critical Study is now due to be published by Dennis Dobson in August.

The Society has been invited to provide a Warlock 'Merry-go-down' evening for the Orpheus Music Club, Ealing, on April 4, 1970.

As the result of a plea by the Society, Oxford University Press have agreed to keep the Warlock song Little Trotty Wagtail, words by John Clare, in print.

Two or three years ago, Boosey and Hawkes reprinted Warlock's song Bethlehem Down at the instigation of the Society. The Society still has a number of copies of this for sale; any member interested should contact the Hon. Secretary, Bernard van Dieren, at 91a Grosvenor Road, S.W.1. (01- 834 2858). The price is 3s 6d.

It is hoped that Warlock's music will feature prominently in a Sunday afternoon concert to be given in the autumn at the Westminster Theatre.

There is a good prospect that Galliard will publish a volume of Warlock songs originally published under the old Augener imprint.

STOP PRESS Tickets for the concert at Eynsford on May 3 are also available from John Bishop, 14 Barlby Road, London W.10. (daytime 01- 934 6569, evening 01-969 3579.)

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members of the Society: Jean Austin Dobson, Jennifer Partridge, Louis Barron, Owen Brannigan, C.R. Crofton, Judge Lionel Jellineck, Alexander Young.