
**Havering
Concert
Orchestra**

Programme



*Havering Arts Council and Havering Adult
College present*

**THE HAVERING CONCERT
ORCHESTRA**

at the

**QUEEN'S THEATRE,
HORNCHURCH**

**Sunday 20th November 1994
8pm**

**Conductor
Leader
Soloist**

**Robert Ferguson
Catherine Cheshire
Jeffrey Lague**



Overture 'The Seraglio'

Mozart
(1756-1791)

The fact that Mozart chose a libretto set in a harem for his 14th opera must have raised a few eyebrows at the time! Perhaps because music in the Turkish style was very popular at the time was the reason he settled on this particular subject. The full title of the opera is 'Abduction from the Harem' and the plot involves a great deal of theatrical fun.

Mozart sets the scene in this sparkling overture using percussion, then very much associated with Turkish music.



Piano Concerto (Op 59)

Moszkowski
(1854-1925)

1. Moderato
2. Andante
3. Scherzo Vivace
4. Allegro Deciso

Like many composers who enjoyed considerable celebrity in their own day, history has not been particularly kind to Polish born Moritz Moszkowski. His 'Joan of Arc' Symphony, grand opera 'Boabdil', concertos and chamber have been largely been forgotten in favour of a few brilliant and melodious piano pieces.

As well as being a celebrated composer, Moszkowski enjoyed a great reputation as a concert pianist and teacher, numbering Sir Thomas Beecham amongst his pupils. He amassed a considerable fortune which was, however, invested unwisely in German war bonds. This eventually led to the penurious circumstances in which he was to end his days in Paris.

The tuneful and glittering piano concerto was written when Moszkowski was at the height of his powers and soon found a place in the repertoire of virtuoso pianists.

Tonight brings a rare opportunity to hear this lovely work, and it is our privilege and pleasure to welcome Jeffrey Lague, once again, as our soloist.

INTERVAL



Dance Episodes from 'Rodeo'


Aaron Copland
(1900-1991)


Aaron Copland was commissioned to write this well-known 'western' ballet for the 1942/43 season of the Metropolitan opera House in New York. The choreographer described the scene:

"Throughout the American Southwest, the Saturday afternoon rodeo is a tradition. On the remote ranches, as well as the trading centers and the towns, the 'hands' get together to show off their skill in roping, riding, branding and throwing The afternoon's exhibition is usually followed by a Saturday night dance at the ranch house.

The theme of the ballet is basic. It deals with the problem that has confronted American women from earliest pioneer times ... how to get a suitable man!"

Tonight the HCO plays three of the episodes:

 Corral Nocturne

 Saturday Night Waltz

 Hoe Down

'An American in Paris'

George Gershwin
(1898-1937)

George Gershwin, born at the end of the last century in New York to Jewish immigrant parents was one of the first musicians to compose both for the concert hall and for Broadway. His 'Piano Concerto in F' and 'Rhapsody in Blue' are, of course, famous classics now at the heart of orchestral repertoire worldwide and tonight we are playing the splendid 'American in Paris.'

This colourfully orchestrated work (the percussion includes French taxi horns) tries to portray the impressions of an American visitor to Paris in 1928. The lively street-scene of the opening is followed by a rich 'blues' section.

In Gershwin's words: "Our American friend, perhaps after strolling into a cafe and having a few drinks has suddenly succumbed to a spasm of home-sickness. The 'blues' rises to a climax, followed by a coda in which the spirit of the music returns to the vivacity of the opening part with its impressions of Paris."



Joan and Brian Luck

We continue our occasional series of biographies featuring members of the Orchestra. Tonight we focus on Joan and Brian Luck, a couple who actually first met through the Havering Concert Orchestra.

Born in Bridgewater, Somerset, Joan first learned the piano at the age of 7. She initially followed in the family footsteps by training to be a nurse, successfully completing her training at Romford's Oldchurch Hospital and winning a coveted Gold Medal during her time there.

Joan quotes "somebody twisting my arm to take on a piano pupil" as precipitating a gradual change in career direction in her late 30's. She subsequently took up peripatetic teaching in Barking on the piano and flute.

Joan in fact joined the Hornchurch Symphony Orchestra (as the HCO was then called) in 1961 to further her violin playing and it was here that she met Brian. They were married 3 years' later.

Born in Dartford, Brian cannot recall a time when he wasn't involved in music. At school, his first instrument was the piano and he showed a promise of greater things to come by taking over as conductor of the school percussion band.

After completing his national service in the RAF, Brian took up the clarinet but this took a back seat when he became fanatical about playing football instead. Fate, though, played a major hand in rejuvenating his musical interest. During a nasty tackle, he broke a leg and to relieve the boredom of enforced immobility, he took up the saxophone. His teacher, Alf Kendall, invited him to join the Hornchurch Orchestra. Playing in his first concert at the old Queens Theatre, Brian recalls a rather disgruntled brass section: apparently his foot tapping to keep time with the music made the whole platform containing the brass section shake!

In the late 80's. Brian formed 'The Moonlight Serenaders. This fulfilled a 35 year long ambition to form a major dance band, the inspiration came from Alan Ainsworth's Northern Dance Orchestra, featuring Sid Lawrence.

In May of this year, the Moonlight Serenaders performed at Joan and Brian's 30th wedding anniversary party which coincided with Brian's retirement from the local council. Life, though, is no less hectic for the Lucks. As well as conducting the YMCA Orchestra, Joan juggles her music teaching commitments with being a regular member of the HCO, as well as playing keyboards in the Serenaders. Brian reciprocates by playing clarinet in the YM Orchestra and continues to devote himself to running the Serenaders.

One final recollection comes from Brian who, back in the early 60's used to sit next to a fledgling oboist in the Hornchurch Orchestra by the name of Michael Neubert. Mr Neubert eventually went on to become our very own MP for Romford - and is, coincidentally, sitting in our audience tonight!

The Orchestra

First Violins

Catherine Cheshire
Celia Rhodes
Yvonne Simmons
Gabrielle Scott
Colin Foan
Jenny Sheppard

Second Violins

Paul Kelly
John Phillips
Jenny Robinson
Glenn Somerville
Karen Williams
Karen Woolfe
Pauline Daly

Violas

Vic Bradnam
Francis Hider

Cellos

Graeme Wright
Mark Rallis
Geoffrey Pink
Brendan O'Connor
Ruth Tyler
Tony Wright

Double Bass

Robert Veale

Flutes

Gillian Foan
Joan Luck
Ankie Postma

Oboe

Judith Roads

Clarinets

Brian Luck
Claire Adams
Mike Youngs

Saxophones

Leigh Thomas
Maria Thomas

Bassoons

Sarah Head
Mark Flanders

Trumpets

Tim French
Matthew Thomas

Trombones

Keith Bleasdale
Warren Middleton
Chris Hoepelman

French Horns

Jamie Merrick
Chris Stagg

Percussion

Janice Flanders
George Scott
Sarah Bell
Georgina Thomas
Jeffrey Lague

Robert Ferguson

Robert Ferguson was born in London where his early musical training was at the Guildhall School of Music. His piano playing at the Royal College of Music gained him the Hopkinsol Gold medal, presented by the Queen Mother, plus the Dannreuther Prize.

His concerto debut was at the Royal Festival Hall in 1973, and his London solo recital debut was a well-reviewed concert on 20th Century piano music in the Purcell Room in 1975. His piano duo debut with Christopher Kite was at the Wigmore Hall in 1973 and they have appeared numerous times on the South Bank to critical acclaim.

As well as the HCO, Robert has teaching commitments at the Perse School for Girls in Cambridge and the Anglia Polytechnic. He has been an enthusiastic adjudicator at various competitive festivals and his work as an examiner has taken him worldwide, including Ireland, Jersey, the Orkneys, Shetlands, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore.

Jeffrey Lague

Jeffrey Lague has been a regular soloist with the HCO for the past 10 years. He divides his time between his homes in Essex and Brighton and has given recitals all over the south of England. Besides piano, he also studied composition at the Royal College of Music.

As well as a good friend, he has also conducted the HCO on three previous occasions. He studied this particular branch of performing under the well-known musician and broadcaster, Bernard Keefe.



The HCO is an enthusiastic and friendly group of local musicians which continues to expand its membership and repertoire under the spirited direction of Robert Ferguson. If you know anyone who is interested in joining the Orchestra (minimum standard Grade 6 or above), please contact the General Secretary:

Karen Williams
74 Harwood Avenue
Hornchurch
RM11 2NU Tel: 0708 706795 (eves)



HCO at the Queens:

**Our next concert is on the 2nd April 1995.
Programme to include Ravel's Bolero and the
Three Bears Suite**



With grateful thanks to all HCO members and supporters without whom this evening would not have been possible.

'American in Paris' is dedicated to Tim in Chicago



