

FESTIVAL 2000

**FESTIVAL
CONCERT**

**QUEEN'S THEATRE
BILLET LANE, HORNCHURCH**

SUNDAY 2ND JULY 2000

**THE FANFARE TRUMPETERS OF THE WELSH GUARDS
HAVERING CONCERT ORCHESTRA
THE FESTIVAL CHOIR
ROBERT NORRIS, PIANO
RAY SCHOFIELD, PIANO**

PROGRAMME



A Millennium Commission
Lottery Project



FESTIVAL CONCERT

THE FANFARE TRUMPETERS OF THE WELSH GUARDS

(by permission of Major General C. R. Watt CBE, the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel)

HAVERING CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Musical Director - Michael Axtell

HAVERING FESTIVAL CHOIR

Conductor - John Morris

Robert Norris - Piano

Ray Schofield - Piano

PROGRAMME

**Fanfare
Overture**

**Festival 2000
Candide**

**Simon Haw
Leonard Bernstein**

Leonard Bernstein was a brilliant pianist, conductor and composer, his most famous work being West Side Story. In 1957, he was appointed Musical Director of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

His exciting Overture from his operetta Candide is a fine opening for Havering's Millennium Festival Concert.

Three Songs from Porgy and Bess

George Gershwin

The inclusion of songs from the folk opera 'Porgy and Bess' sets the theme of jazz influenced choral music of the twentieth century in tonight's concert. George Gershwin wrote in his article 'Relation of Jazz to American Music', "*The great music of the past has always been built on folk music... jazz. I regard as an American folk music, not the only one, but a very beautiful one which is in the blood and feeling of the American People.*"

The three songs, 'I Got Plenty O'Nuttin', 'Summertime' and 'It Ain't Necessarily So' have enjoyed popularity as standard repertoire with both solo singers and choirs alike, for many years.

Fanfare For The Common Man

Aaron Copland

Scored for brass and timpani, this fanfare was one of a series of wartime fanfares commissioned by Eugene Goossens in 1942. Goossens conducted the first performance with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in 1943.

Bobby Shafthoe's Journeys

Michael Axtell

Bobby Shafthoe, well known nautical character, travels the world stealing other people's music. He isn't fussy who he steals from and he always imposes his own tune on other composers. During his travels we should guess which country he is in. This could be hinted at through the composer, the title or the style of the music. He gets tipsy and falls asleep on the deck of his boat, at night. In his drunken stupor he dreams of previous countries and even one he hasn't yet visited. Finally, he returns home where we hear three wartime favourites. (Played at the same time?)

INTERVAL

Havering Festival

Dal Strutt

Dal's composition began life as a short choral work called The Song of Zacharias adapted from the oratorio 'John the Baptist'. It has been re-scored for orchestra for this Millennium Festival Concert. Dal is a local composer and is very active in Havering's music circles.

The Rio Grande

Constant Lambert

Constant Lambert 1905 - 1951 was born in London. He was a composer, conductor and critic. He studied composition with Vaughn Williams. A series of brilliant works established him with William Walton. Lambert was greatly influenced by jazz, Duke Ellington being his main inspiration. Rio Grande was written in 1927 and first performed for the BBC the following year. First public performance was in Manchester in 1929. The piece is a setting of a poem by Sacheverell Sitwell and tonight's scoring is for mixed choir, large percussion section and two pianos.

Suite Number Two from Carmen

Bizet

This suite from Georges Bizet's famous opera, Carmen, is in six movements:

1. Marche Des Contrebandiers. 2. Habanera, 3. Nocturne, 4. Chanson De Toreador. 5. La Garde Montante. 6. Danse Boheme.

MICHAEL AXTELL

Eighteen years Principal Flute with the English National Opera (1967-1985). Before that, Principal Flute with the Ballet Rambert and Festival Ballet companies. Principal Flute with the English Sinfonia. Guest Principal Flute with Northern Sinfonica, BBC Welsh, Bournemouth Sinfonietta, Sidney Symphony and Sinfonia de Evskadi of Spain. Extra work with most London orchestras. Conducted the South Bank Symphonic Wind Band for ten years. Conducted university and youth orchestras as well as directing and playing concertos. Woodwind coach for the I.L.E.A. and Bromley Borough music departments. Conductor and coach for Kingston Association of Music Education. Coach and conductor for many adult music courses. Currently conducting four orchestras. Player/Director of various chamber music ensembles performing at the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, Wigmore Hall, Barbican and Fairfield Halls.

JOHN MORRIS

John Morris has been teaching music in Havering since 1974. In 1987 he joined the Music Advisory Team working across the primary and secondary age ranges, and subsequently became the Adviser for Music in Havering. Now retired he continues to support schools in a part-time capacity. He has spent several years working with staff and children in the Borough's schools providing in service training and leading many primary school music festivals. He has conducted the Havering Youth Choir since 1979 giving regular concerts locally and internationally taking part in events organised by the British Federation of Young Choirs. He conducts Havering Young Singers for children aged 7-11 years. He also now conducts 'Sound Company', a choir formed in 1987 primarily from ex-members of the Youth Choir. The most recent addition to his choral directing is that of the 'Can't Sing Choir', a Fairkytes Arts Workshop for people who think they can't sing but would like to try.

ROBERT NORRIS

Robert Norris was born in Birmingham in 1943. He was educated at Wellesbourne School and then at The Guildhall School of Music where he studied the piano with Cimbro Martin. He later took the Post Graduate Music Teachers Certificate at the University of London Institute of Education. He has spent the whole of his teaching career in The London Borough of Havering, the last 15 years as Director of Music at The Albany School. He has a good rapport with young people, producing a good school choir that took part in many Havering concerts and also sang at the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen on several occasions. He retired in 1997 and now directs the Junior Choir at The Coopers' Company and Coborn School. He is in demand as an accompanist and piano teacher.

RAY SCHOFIELD

Ray was born in Bolton and educated at Farnworth Grammar School and the University of Nottingham where he gained an Honours Degree in Music. He worked for many years as a teacher in Newham before being appointed Deputy Headmaster of the St. Marylebone School, Westminster. He is currently teaching in Havering at The Sacred Heart of Mary School.