



EVERYONE SANG

Leatherhead Choral Society

Conducted by Ian Assersohn
Accompanist Gina Eason

Programme notes by Ian Assersohn

- 1 **I got plenty o' nuttin' (2'28")**
George Gershwin (1898-1937)

The recording begins with an arrangement for mixed voices by William Stickles of one of the best-known songs from Gershwin's operatic masterpiece *Porgy and Bess*

Lyrics are by Ira Gershwin and DuBose Heyward.
- 2 **Old Abram Brown (3'11")**
Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

This mock funeral march is taken from a collection of light-hearted songs called "Friday Afternoons" (Op 7)

The text is from "Tom Tiddler's Ground" by Walter de la Mare.
- 3 **The battle of Jericho (2'02")**
arr Brian Trant

An arrangement for women's voices of the well-known Negro spiritual. *Joshua fit the battle of Jericho An' the walls come tumblin' down*".
- 4 **The long day closes (3'00")**
Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

Sullivan is best remembered for the partnership with William Gilbert which resulted in the Savoy Operas including *The Mikado* and *H.M.S Pinafore*.

However, his contribution to the choral repertoire consists of a number of fine part songs, two of which are featured on this recording.

The Long day closes is a setting of a poem by Henry Chorley and was originally published in a version for male voices in 1868.
- 5 **Sicut cervus (1'58")**
Giovanni Perluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

Sicut cervus is rightly held up as a model of the renaissance style of writing known as imitative polyphony. In this style, the voices weave around one another, the voices starting their phrases one after the other, each one imitating the music of the one before.

Sicut servus was written around 1581 and is a setting of Psalm 42, verse 1. *Like as the hart desireth the water brooks, so longeth my soul for thee O God*
- 6 **Love divine (4'40")**
Howard Goodall (b. 1958)

Love divine was commissioned by the Choir Schools' Association to celebrate the new millennium. The text is by Charles Wesley: "*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down, Fix in us the humble dwelling, All they faithful mercies crown.*"

It was first performed on 26 February 2000.

- 7 **Oh freedom (2'49")**
Arr. Robert I Hugh
- This African-American spiritual speaks of hope in the midst of oppression and became particularly well known during the 1960's civil rights movements in America during which many variations were created.
- The American composer Robert I. Hugh has made a special study of music from Kenya and Tanzania and has written widely for choirs, especially for children's voices.
- 8 **O hush thee, my babie (2'36")**
Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)
- The other piece by Sullivan on this recording is a setting of a lullaby by Sir Walter Scott and was first published in 1867
- 9 **I'm goin' up a yonder (3'25")**
Walter Hawkins (b.1949)
- An arrangement by Paul Read of a gospel song by the American performer and arranger Walter Hawkins
- 10 **Canzonetta (2'06")**
Orazio Vecchi (1550 - 1605)
- An example of the light Italian Canzonetta. This form was extremely popular in the sixteenth century and Vecchi was one of its foremost exponents.
- The English translation on this recording is by Alice Parker
- 11 **Ave verum corpus (2'43")**
W. A Mozart (1756-1791)
- This is one of the most well-known and best-loved pieces in the entire choral repertoire. Mozart wrote it in the spa town of Baden, near Vienna, in 1791 where his wife, Constanze was taking the waters.
- The piece was written for Mozart's friend, the choir master of the local church, Anton Stoll.
- 12 **Ching-a-ring-chaw (1'46")**
Aaron Copland (1900-1990)
- An arrangement by Irving Fine for mixed chorus of a minstrel song adapted by the American composer Aaron Copland.
- Minstrel songs were extremely popular in America in the 19th Century, and was probably the only type of "Negro" music known to most white people at that time.
- A minstrel troupe usually consisted of a group of singers simply accompanied by tambourine and bones (the bones player being known as "Mr. Bones"). The sound of the bones is here represented by claves.
- 13 **Al shlosha d'varim (2'50")**
Allan E. Naplan
- This is a lyrical setting of one of the maxims of the the *Pirkei Avot* (Jewish morality laws). The text, translated means;
- The world is sustained by three things, by truth, by justice, and by peace.*
- The American composer Allan E. Naplan has written many vocal compositions, many of them for children. This beautiful two-part choral work was originally written for the Ithaca Children's Choir
- 14 **Everyone sang (2'26")**
Ian Assersohn (b.1958)
- This is a setting of a poem published in 1920 by the First World War poet Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967).
- The setting was first performed by Leatherhead Choral Society and is dedicated to them.