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YORKSHIRE REGION MUSIC WEEKEND Scarborough 26 to 29 March 2010

The Crown Spa Hotel overlooks the North Sea and is a very good base. Presentations include Raymond Wood's tribute to Tod Handley, Em Marshal, English Music Festival director, explores the life and music of Gustav Holst and Sir Granville Bantock's great-grandson will refresh the memory of this long-neglected composer.

FRMS MUSICAL WEEKEND Daventry 23 to 25 April 2010

Bookings are well under way and we offer the satisfying experience of hearing, amongst others, from Sir Neville Marriner, Lyndon Jenkins, our new President, pianist Mark Bebbington, an acclaimed champion of British music, and a performance of outstanding chamber music with the Boult Quartet and Cosima Yu.

FRMS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010 Cirencester on Saturday 23 October

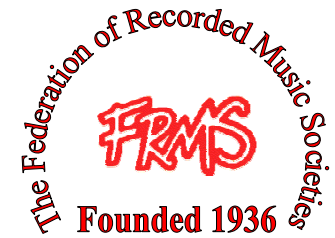
This is the meeting when the FRMS meets formally to review its year, approve its finances and elect its officials and Committee members for the coming year. It is also a good social occasion with a dinner and a musical entertainment. Put the date in your diary and represent your society at this event.

NEWSLETTER NO. 11

February 2010

this medium of communication to members
is distributed via affiliated society secretaries

editor: tonypook@talktalk.net 01904 642407



Welcome to the first 2010 edition of the *Newsletter*. This is issued twice yearly, falling roughly in between the two issues of our House Magazine, *Bulletin* and it gives the Committee an opportunity to communicate with the members in the interim and to remind them of things which are happening within the Federation.

PROFILE: Tony Baines, FRMS Secretary

Federation Secretary since 2002, Tony is a former Primary School Headmaster. He was Secretary of the Stoke-on-Trent Recorded Music Circle for several years. He is now Chairman of Newcastle (Staffs) RMS and a member at Stafford RMS. He enjoys the 'front desk' contact with societies that comes with being secretary and especially the camaraderie and goodwill that is so widespread in the Federation. He nurses an ambition to be in email contact with as many societies as possible, and foresees the possibility of an unofficial, voluntary think-tank that can help spread the word and carry the movement forward.



Musically, Tony would retire to a desert island with J S Bach's complete works for solo violin and cello, and the complete works of Beethoven, and - his not so secret passion - the entire output of Hector Berlioz.

The New FRMS Secretary

Tony has already intimated that he will stand down in the foreseeable future and the Federation is very keen to hear from those who might be interested in joining the Committee as the new Secretary. Of course, you may be interested but don't know exactly what the job entails; in which case you should contact either Tony or Chairman John Davies direct (telephone numbers and email addresses are in *Bulletin*). They will be pleased to tell you more and to answer your questions. In fact they will probably invite you to come to a meeting and meet the Committee members, which is probably the best place to learn about the Secretary's function.

Welcome to Bradford-on-Avon RMS

We are very pleased to extend a warm welcome to the latest FRMS affiliate. This Society is based in the historic west Wiltshire town, which is popular with tourists and has an attractive setting on the edge of the Avon Valley. If you are travelling in the area why not check their meeting dates on the website and pay them a friendly fraternal visit.

MUSIC WEEKENDS 2010

At present there are three principal musical weekends available to recorded music lovers, although the events do not need to be exclusively confined to recorded music. All are held in comfortable hotels and the food, service, music and companionship are to be highly recommended. If you haven't been to one of them yet, why don't you treat yourself and go to one in the coming year. I'm sure you won't regret it.

The majority of bookings for these events come from people who have been before, and there can not be a better recommendation than the return of a satisfied customer. So may I suggest that you consult your diary now and get in touch with one of the contacts listed below.

- 26-29 March** **SCARBOROUGH** **Held in the Crown Spa Hotel**
Organiser: Jim Bostwick, 01484 717865
- 23-25 April** **DAVENTRY** **Held in the Barceló Daventry Hotel**
Organiser: Graham Kiteley, 01527 870549
Bookings: Tony Baines, 01782 251460
- 19-22 November** **TORBAY** **Held in the Palace Hotel, Torquay**
Organiser: Barry Miller, 01892 526610

REGIONAL DAYS

These musical and social gatherings are organised by local groups and a lot of hard work and planning goes into them. They demonstrate, once again, that we have a wealth of good and entertaining speakers and, given lunch and the ability to meet and enjoy the day with friends - as the song says - *Who could ask for anything more?*

It is particularly pleasing to see that the Scottish Regional Group has been revived and it is to be complimented on a most attractive programme.

Saturday 08 May

DUNDEE **1300 to 1800 including buffet lunch**
Held in Discovery Point, home of Scott's Antarctic Ship RRS Discovery
Speakers: Donald Maxwell, popular baritone, on *Maxwell's Mixture*
Jim Angus of Carnoustie on *The Instrumental Side of Opera*
Contact: John Maidment, 01241 853017

Saturday 16 October

HUDDERSFIELD **1000 to 1630 including buffet lunch**
Held in New North Road Baptist Church, Huddersfield
Speakers: Jim Bostwick, Tony Haywood and one other tbc.
Contact: Anne Hartley, 01274 873677

It is expected that there will also be a Midlands Regional event but the date, venue and speakers have still to be confirmed.

MUSIC MATTERS (2)

Continuing with my theme from the last edition, when I looked at music's ability to stretch our imagination and said that one of the important things about the Recorded Music movement was that "it keeps the music of lesser known composers in circulation and helps to preserve them and their work for posterity".

There are, according to Arnold Cohen's *Encyclopedia of Women Composers* (published in two large volumes), at least 6,196 women composers. He gives examples ranging from Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) to Ellen Taaffe Zwyllich (born 1939). When did you last hear one of their works in a concert programme? You may, with luck, find Sally Beamish in a live music concert, because she is contemporary (born 1959), or even Germaine Tailleferre (1892-1983), because she was a member of the famous French-composer group *Les Six*; but when did you hear anything by Louise Farrenc (1804-1875) with three symphonies and numerous chamber works, or Amy Beach (1867-1944) with a symphony, a mass, a piano concerto, songs and chamber works.

Here indeed is fertile ground for the recorded music presenter because, surprise, surprise, the music written by women composers is equal to and just as technically competent and dramatic and powerful and tuneful and enjoyable as that written by their male contemporaries.

While their music is not often heard in live concerts, there is plenty available on CD. In addition to the names above, here is a short list to mull over: Lili Boulanger, Doreen Carwithen, Cecile Chaminade, Rebecca Clarke, Ruth Gipps, Fanny Hensel, Viteslava Kapralová, Miss LH of Liverpool, Elisabeth Lutyens, Henriette Renié, Kaija Saariaho, Clara Schumann, Alice Mary Smith, Ethel Smyth, Judith Weir, Maud White and Grace Williams. How many of these are familiar to you and, more important, how much of their music have you heard? Of course, there are many more, and you can find their names and information about them on the internet. The Kaprolova website is a very good starting point because they have a list of women composers whose music is on disc.

A significant number of these ladies are British-born, which gives another basis for an interesting programme title.

By the way, don't just choose the music and play it, *tell* your audience about these interesting ladies, their friends and their lives. Did their parents help or hinder them, did society encourage them, did they teach, who taught them, who promoted their works, what else did they do apart from compose?

I hope you now want to take this further and do the really interesting thing, which is to research the background to the subject, learn more about it and feel a real sense of achievement when you communicate this to others.