

Forthcoming Concerts

Tonight is the final concert of our 2005 / 2006 season.

The first concert of our 2006 / 2007 season will be on **18th November 2006**. Our last two concerts have been "away from home" - in Chester Cathedral in April and here at Malbank School tonight. In November we will be returning to our usual venue of St Mary's Parish Church in Nantwich.

The concert promises to be a memorable occasion with a period instrument performance of the celebrated
Monteverdi Vespers of 1610
- The Second Vespers for the Feast of Santa Barbara.

Tickets will be available from the Box Office at
"Sounds Musical" : 01270 625579

Tickets will also be available from the Nantwich Information Centre,
from choir members or at the door

For more information visit our website at www.nantwichchoral.org.uk

Nantwich Choral Society

SOME LIKE IT COOL!

Popular Songs for a Summer Evening

with

**Richard Suart - Baritone
and**

The Mildinhall Jazz Trio

Directed by John Naylor



BENTLEY

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**Malbank High School, Nantwich
Saturday 1st July 2006 at 7.30 p.m.**

PROGRAMME

Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo

Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo was written and composed towards the end of 1970. It is the first collaboration of Michael Flanders (of Flanders and Swann fame) and Joseph Horowitz, although they had known each other for many years. The work is a light-hearted oratorio on the old Noah subject with an immensely witty and skilful libretto by Michael Flanders. Although it has been performed in many different versions and adaptations, both authors always firmly insisted that it is not to be taken as a contribution to 'pop-religion'.

Captain Noah was originally intended to be sung in schools, in unison or two parts. However another more sophisticated version was prepared by the composer for one soloist, with a large chorus accompanied by a jazz trio. This, the version being performed this evening, was first performed in The Queen Elizabeth Hall in 1972 with Michael Flanders himself as the soloist. John Naylor, tonight's conductor, was one of the singers.

The soloist is the voice of God, the narrator and several other characters as well. The musical style of the cantata is unashamedly eclectic and exploits most well known types of popular music to tell this evergreen story in a light-hearted and enjoyable manner.

There are 10 short movements:

Introduction: The thunderclouds rumble!

1. God is disappointed in mankind and resolves to send rain, but warns Noah of his intention
2. Everybody laughs at Noah as he builds his ark
3. Noah collects up two of every living creature before the rain comes.

4. It starts to rain, gently at first and then the water gets higher and higher
5. The world is flooded, but those in the ark are saved.
6. It seems to go on raining for ever.
7. Eventually it stops, and the ark settles on Mount Ararat
8. Everyone in the ark is desperate to leave, but is it safe?
9. God tells all the occupants of the ark to leave, two by two
10. God sends his rainbow as a sign that his word is true.

Jazz instrumental piece

Choir

'S wonderful (George Gershwin)
Somewhere over the Rainbow (Harold Arlen)
Night and Day (Cole Porter)

Richard Suart with songs by Flanders and Swann

Ill wind (The Horn Song)
Madeira
Hippopotamus Song

INTERVAL

Choir

Tea for two (Vincent Youmans)
Deep Purple (Peter de Rose)
Begin the Beguine (Cole Porter)

Jazz instrumental piece

Richard Suart with songs by Noel Coward

Nina from Argentina
Mrs Worthington
Mad Dogs

Extracts from Gilbert and Sullivan Operas

from Ruddigore:

I once was a very abandoned person
My eyes are fully open

from Trial by Jury:

The Judge's song

from Mikado:

Tit Willow

from The Pirates of Penzance:

The Major General's song

The Mildinhall Jazz Trio is a group formed specially for tonight's concert. **Andrew Mildinhall** is already known to many and has a long association with Nantwich Choral Society. Tonight Andrew shows that he's just at home with jazz as he is with Bach or Mendelssohn. Our Bass player is **Geoff Wallis** from Nantwich. Geoff can often be seen in the orchestras that accompany local choirs. On drums and percussion is **James Taylor**, a former member of the Hallé and Lancashire Youth Orchestras.

Richard Suart - Baritone

Richard Suart was born in Lancashire, and studied at St John's College, Cambridge, and the Royal Academy of Music. He began his operatic career with the English Music Theatre Company and Opera Factory, and is now much sought after, particularly in music theatre, contemporary opera and, of course, as a comedian in the more standard repertoire.

He has worked for all the major British opera houses, including performances of *The Mikado* (Ko-Ko), *Die Fledermaus* (Frank), *La Bohème* (Benoit and Alcindoro) and *The Pirates of Penzance* (Major-General Stanley) for English National Opera; at Opera North he created the role of Stan Stock in Benedict Mason's *Playing Away*; and for Welsh National Opera and at Covent Garden he sang Jack Point in *The Yeomen of the Guard*. At Garsington he has sung Don Magnifico in *La Cenerentola*, and Antonio in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and at Grange Park, the Lord Chancellor in *Iolanthe* and Don Inigo Gomez in *L'Heure Espagnole*. He has been a member of the D'Oyly Carte since 1988 and has sung many of the Savoy operas for them, also Orpheus in the *Underworld* and *La Vie Parisienne*.

Richard is also much in demand in the Opera Houses of the world, having sung in Italy, Germany, France, Finland, Norway, Portugal, Holland, Austria, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland and America.

His involvement with the works of Gilbert and Sullivan has led him to create an entertainment, "As a Matter of Patter", which he has performed with his wife at many venues in the UK, South Africa and the Middle East. He has appeared at the BBC Proms three times, as the Duke of Plaza-Toro, as The Lord Chancellor and as Sir Joseph Porter, and has made many other appearances at Gala Concerts both in the UK and North America. In 2003 he took part in the first production of *The Mikado* in Venice at the Palafenice. He has also given performances with Opera della Luna at London's Bridewell Theatre of *The Parson's Pirates*; also at the Buxton Festival where the production was filmed for DVD. Indeed he is a regular visitor to the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival, held in Buxton each summer, and is a Vice President of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society. In 2004 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music.

John Naylor

John Naylor, conductor, singer and organist combines extensive performance experience in world-class choirs with a lifelong passionate interest in choral music and its performance.

His original training was as a choral scholar at St John's College, Cambridge under the great Dr George Guest after keyboard studies with Conrad Eden at Durham Cathedral where he was a chorister, a music scholarship at Rossall School where he studied the organ with George Suart (the father of Richard, tonight's soloist) and singing studies with Wilfrid Brown and Lyndon van der Pump from The Royal College of Music.

He subsequently became a professional member of the Chapel Royal Choir at H.M. Tower of London and appeared with John Eliot Gardiner, Louis Halsey, Neville Mariner and Richard Hickox at The Proms, The South Bank, The Aldeburgh Festival and in numerous recordings. He has sung in the cathedral choirs of Christ Church Oxford, Carlisle and Chester.

John has been Director of The Lydian Singers (one of the North West's leading chamber choirs) since 1980, and is also Musical Director of the celebrated Newport & District Male Voice Choir. He was appointed Musical Director of Nantwich Choral Society in September 2005 with whom he has subsequently performed Mendelssohn's Elijah and Bach's St John Passion with The 18th Century Concert Orchestra in Chester Cathedral to considerable critical acclaim.

He has just completed a very successful concert tour of Castile with the Lydian Singers, including performances of the music of Tomas Luis da Victoria at the Cathedral and the Music Conservatoire in Segovia and also in the cathedrals and major churches of Toledo, Avila and Salamanca. Immediate future engagements include Hereford Cathedral (August) and St George's Chapel Windsor (October) with the Lydian Singers, a concert tour of Slovenia with Newport & District MVC in September and a November performance of Monteverdi's Vespers with Nantwich Choral Society.

Andrew Mildinhall - Piano

Andrew studied the organ & piano with Nicholas Danby, Vivian Langrish & Eric Thieman. After a long career in fund-raising & marketing, he now operates as a freelance musician. He was organist of Nantwich parish church for 12 years. He also finds time to run "Sounds Musical", a specialist CD shop in Hospital Street, Nantwich.

THE CHOIR

1st Soprano

Anne Barnard
Janice Brown
Jo Butchart
Joyce Clegg
Glenda Colemere
Gail Corfield
Rita Davies
Ann Ferguson
Gillian Handford
Rosemary Jones
Bronwyn Kelly
Helen Kerr
Liz Kirby
Sheila Luke
Sue Munks
Maire Pedder
Rachel Pentecost
Eileen Stuttard
Amanda Taylor
Jane Whiteman
Sandra Wyllie

2nd Soprano

Sue Briscoe
Christine English
Joyce Foster
Janet Gittins
Cynthia Gorton
Karen Grimwood
Liz McCrone
Anne-Dorothee Mächtig
Toni Mathie
Steph Percy
Annabel Nielsen
Eileen Robertson
Barbara Shone
Sally Sissons

1st Alto

Jean Atkin
Alison Bailey
Jocelyn Cooper
Jacqueline Davies
Diane Disbury
Fiona Field
Frances Hutchinson
Anne Nicol
Margaret Smith
Gillian Wakeley
Diane Wheatley

2nd Alto

Sharon Arnold
Shirley Burton
Judith Dooley
Angela Greaves
Joy Guest
Vanessa McAllan
Anne McKay
Brenda Midgley
Janet Miller
Brenda Morris
Gwyneth Rollins
Joan Shaddick
Margaret Whitehurst

Tenor

Wal Kay
Thomas Mächtig
Mike Moores
Nick Smith
Philip Trinder
Joe Watson

Bass

Peter Bastin
Christopher Findlay
David Foster
David Jones
Martin Jones
Ron Kelley
Jock Knight
Jonathan Layfield
Ray Potts
Bob Pugh
Simon Stubington
David Walker