



Eastbourne
CONCERT :||
ORCHESTRA

Christmas Concert

Programme 2021

Welcome

Welcome to the Eastbourne Concert Orchestra's Christmas Concert 2021 and welcome back to live music!

We are so pleased to be back playing together as a group in weekly rehearsals and extremely glad to welcome you here this evening for our first performance in two years. Tonight's programme is full of some of our favourite festive music and Christmas favourites.

Humperdinck's 1893 opera *Hansel and Gretel* began life as a family affair - requested for a production his sister planned to give with her children. The short pieces turned out to be such a success that he was encouraged to expand them into a full-scale opera. The overture, more of a prelude, is based on themes that would be heard later in the opera including the chorale like 'evening prayer' a trumpet call, folk dances and music associated with sorcery.

Composed in 1861 by Strauss, *Perpetuum mobile* was written as a musical joke - a piece without an ending. These 'never-ending' pieces were quite popular at the time and it became a tradition for the leader to suddenly stand, face the audience and say 'und so weiter' (and so forth) followed by the players walking off the stage. We do have an ending, after a fashion, and as this is the second piece in the concert we won't be walking off stage!

Swan Lake is a story-ballet from 1876 - a tale of young love betrayed, told through dance and music. The suite heard tonight is a series of excerpts taken from the ballet.

The opening scene introduces the haunting Swan Theme and represents both the grace and beauty of the swans and the mystery and magic of their lake. The brilliant waltz, in true ballet style, is danced during Prince Siegfried's birthday party in Act I. The Dance of the swans from Act II features four 'little swans' who dance in tandem, arm-in-arm, followed by a tender scene - the moment Odette, the swan princess, and Siegfried fall in love and he promises to break the curse she is under. The characterful Czardas, or Hungarian dance, is performed during yet another party where subterfuge helps to break the bond of trust formed between Odette and Siegfried, and therefore mean the curse can never be broken.

Rather than remain a swan forever, Odette chooses to die, and Siegfried, rather than remain alone, chooses to die with her and they both jump into the lake as heard in the powerful finale. The swan theme returns, albeit with a twist - the music moves towards a major key representing the ultimate triumph over fate. There is a change of pace and mood at the very end as Siegfried and Odette ascend into the Heavens together, forever united in love.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, an English composer of mixed-racial heritage died in 1912 at the age of 37. An inscription on his gravestone includes a quote from the poet Alfred Noyes: 'Too young to die: his great simplicity, his happy courage in an alien world, his gentleness, made all that knew him love him.' The Christmas Overture was posthumously published in 1925, taken from some of the incidental music he wrote for the children's play The Forest of Wild Thyme by Noye.

Lehár wrote his Gold and Silver Waltz at the request of Princess Pauline von Metternich for a ball she gave in Vienna in January 1902. She asked for "something especially fine" and was rewarded with one of the masterworks of the twilight years of the Viennese waltz.

Me and My Girl Selections features hits from the 'grand-old' 1930s Noel Gay musical of the same name. Listen out for the Lambeth Walk amongst other favourites.

Our Christmas concert wouldn't be the same without our favourite Christmas pieces dotted throughout the second half. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do!

Programme

HUMPERDINCK

Hansel and Gretel Overture

STRAUSS

Perpetuum Mobile

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

A Vaughan Williams Christmas

TCHAIKOVSKY

Swan Lake Suite, Op.20a

- Scene
- Valse
- Danse des Cygnes
- Pas d'Action (Odette et la Prince)
- Danse Hongroise - Czardas
- Finale

INTERVAL

COLERIDGE-TAYLOR

A Christmas Overture

LEHAR

Gold and Silver Waltz

ARR. SHELDON

A Most Wonderful Christmas

GAY

Me and My Girl Selections

ANDERSON

A Christmas Festival

BERLIN

White Christmas

ANDERSON

Sleigh Ride

The Orchestra

STRINGS

FIRST VIOLINS

Simon Smith
Hazel Brewer
Mike Goss
Yosi McKenzie
Amelia Powell
Sara Sage
Elaine Savins
Jill Vaughan

SECOND VIOLINS

Liz Bux
Shelia Bellamy
Julia Carlton-Lowe
John Caroe
Will Oastler
Yvonne Spear

VIOLA

Sophie Bayman
Ann-Marie Brooke
Valmai Crane
Sandor Vegh

CELLO

Johnathan Bruce
Kathryn Anderson
Ruth Bosworth
Piaf Knight
Karen Sinstadt
Roger White

DOUBLE BASS

Julian Baker

WOODWIND, BRASS & PERCUSSION

FLUTES

Gill Willis
Sarah Thomson

TRUMPETS

Andy Trowhill
Stuart Welford

CLARINETS

Nigel Allen
Stephanie Bond
Jason Carbonell-Ferrer

OBOE

Gail Taylor
Sian Russell

HARP

Fiona Hosford

BASSOONS

Theresa Keysell

FRENCH HORNS

Chris Willard
Bob Turner
Andy Trowhill

PERCUSSION & TIMAPANI

Patricia Golds
Avril Vergh

TROMBONES

Drew Smith
Ian Lawrence
Chris Thompson

Friends of the Orchestra

B.S. Baker, Esq.

Mrs R.J. Baker

Mrs J.M. Booth

Miss J. Ferguson

Mrs S. Goss

J. Grutchfield, Esq.

Mrs H. Grutchfield

A.P. Hammond, Esq.

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Miss J. Hayward

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Mrs B. Leggett

Mrs Z. Luck

Hon. Alderman G.H. Marsden

Mrs P. Snowden

Mrs J. Stevens

Mr C. Wallis

Mr B. Waters, M.B.E.

Hon. Alderman Miss O. Woodall

Mrs J. Worsley

*Names are correct as of our 2020 database. We sincerely hope that this list does not cause any distress if names are included of Friends who are no longer with us.

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Please email: eastbourneorchestra@hotmail.co.uk for more information on becoming a friend.

Next Concert

Eastbourne
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Spring Concert

Celebrating 252 years of Beethoven

Beethoven - Egmont Overture

Beethoven - Symphony No. 5

Brahms - Academic Festival Overture

Bruch - Suite on Russian Folk Melodies

Tuesday 22nd March 2022

Eastbourne Town Hall

Concert starts at 7:30pm

**£10 tickets, available on the door and
at the Tourist Information Centre**

Under 18s free



www.eastbourneorchestra.com



Eastbourne
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Dates to Remember

Spring Concert - 22nd March 2022
Summer Concert - 5th July 2022