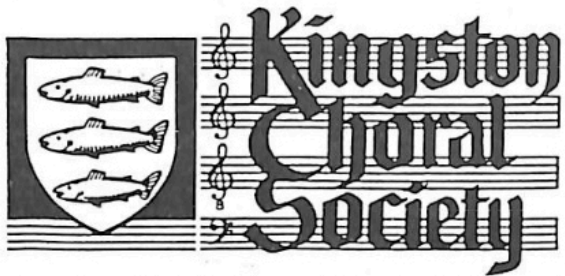


Nov. 1990



& PURCELL  
ORCHESTRA



HAYDN - 'THE SEASONS'



K I N G S T O N

C H O R A L

S O C I E T Y

KINGSTON PARISH CHURCH

Saturday, November 9th; 1991

HAYDN: THE SEASONS

W i t h t h e P u r c e l l O r c h e s t r a

CONDUCTOR: Robin Page

SOPRANO: Elisabeth Clarke

TENOR: Richard Braebrook

BASS: Anthony Cunningham

1. SPRING
2. SUMMER.

I N T E R V A L \*

3. AUTUMN
4. WINTER

\* During the interval, wine, coffee and fruit juice will be served. Tickets for wine should be bought at the door before the concert begins.

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## THE SEASONS - FRANZ JOSEPH HAYDN (1732 - 1809)

Haydn completed this - his second choral piece - in 1801, more than five years after he returned to Vienna. The words are from James Thomson's secular epic poem of the same name which was published in 1745 and had become very popular when Haydn visited London in the early 1790's. The verse was drastically recast by Baron Gottfried von Swietens to provide a suitable text for Haydn's oratorio and the work was first performed in Vienna at the Palais Schwarzenberg during April 1801. Partly because of some negative comparisons with "The Creation", the piece met with limited success. It was not even performed in England during Haydn's lifetime.

The work consists of four principal self-contained movements: Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. These form a cycle but do not present any real storyline. Instead, each section contains a central moment - the Overture, the Storm, the Hunt and Home Life respectively - to which the gallery of smaller pictures is episodically attached. Although it may seem strange to focus the first part on the Overture this actually merges into friendly Spring and is thematically linked to Winter so that it provides a pivotal cornerstone to the whole composition.

What emerges from the structure is an artistic opus which concerns not only the cycle of the Seasons and the effect on nature but also its impact on man at several levels. Though Haydn identified most closely with the cold winter of old age the work has a sense of looking back over his whole career from the first youthful glow of Spring through the hazy heat of mid-Summer to the ripe fields of Autumn. Indeed the whole piece was intended to display as many sides of Haydn's talent as possible.

"The Seasons" comprises a series of instrumental overtures, solo arias and recitatives as well as a variety of choruses for mixed voices. It was composed for a large symphonic orchestra, three soloists and a double choir. In the Summer chorus "Behold On High He Mounts", the latter two are effectively combined. It opens with the tentative sounds of the soloists but after a few bars the majestic glory of the whole choir enters to accompany the sun's ascent into the sky and to create a powerful impression of its piercing rays. By his use of voice parts Haydn also employs a new device of contrasting the sopranos and altos with the tenors and basses.

O U R N E X T C O N C E R T - An Evening of Lollipops with the Police National Orchestra at Fairfield Halls, Croydon, on Tuesday, November 19th....THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be part of the Kingston Merrie festivities in the Town Centre on Thursday, December 19th at 7.30pm.