

APRIL 1963

SURBITON ORATORIO SOCIETY



BACH
ST JOHN
PASSION

BACH: JOHANN SEBASTIAN 1685-1750

Born at Eisenach, Upper Saxony. In 1703 he became court musician at Weimar, and the following year, organist to a new church at Arnstadt. His reputation soon spread and in 1708 he was appointed court organist by the reigning duke. While holding this office he laboured assiduously to make himself master of every branch of music. In 1717 he was made Director of Concerts and six years afterwards Director of Music and Cantor to St. Thomas's School, Leipzig, an appointment he held until his death. Bach's close studies affected his eyes, and an operation designed to benefit them left him totally blind.

With the exception of Handel, Bach had no rival as an organist; and his compositions for the organ have a deservedly high reputation.

The St. John Passion was first performed on Good Friday, 26th March, 1723, at St. Thomas's, Leipzig, as a trial work before Bach's election as Cantor. Its first British performance was in London under Barnby in 1872.

Bach had a deep interest in theology and later followed this work with the great Passion according to St. Matthew, which Sir Hubert Parry describes as "the richest and noblest example of devotional music in existence".

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SURBITON ORATORIO SOCIETY

Member of the National Federation of Music Societies

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
MAPLE ROAD SURBITON
7.30 SAT. APRIL 6 1963

BACH
ST JOHN PASSION

ANN DOWDALL (Soprano)

DELIA WOOLFORD (Contralto)

PHILIP LANGRIDGE (Tenor) - -

RICHARD ANGAS (Bass) - - - - - CHRISTUS

GORDON MORRIS - - - - - PILATE & PETER

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA - - - - - Leader: RALPH NICHOLSON

CONTINUO - - - - - PETER BEAVAN

HARPSICHORD - - - - - HUBERT DAWKES

ORGAN - - - - - KENNETH LAWRENCE

CONDUCTOR - - - - - JOHN WILKINSON

*Father, the hour
is come; glorify
thy Son, that
thy Son also
may glorify thee*

*... and
immediately the
cock crew*

*Pilate then went
out unto them,
and said, What
accusation
bring ye against
this man?*

PART I

CHORUS Lord and Master in all lands.
RECIT. Jesus went forth with His disciples.
CHORUS Jesus of Nazareth.
RECIT. Jesus saith unto them, I am He.
CHORUS Jesus of Nazareth.
RECIT. Jesus answered, I have told you.
CHORALE O mighty love, O love beyond all measure.
RECIT. That the saying might be fulfilled.
CHORALE Thy will, O God, be always done.

RECIT. Then the band and the chief captain.
ARIA (Contralto) Chains of bondage that I wrought me.
RECIT. And Simon Peter followed Jesus.
ARIA (Soprano) I follow in gladness to meet Thee.
RECIT. Now that disciple was known.
CHORALE Ah! Whence this hatred shown Thee?
RECIT. Now Annas had sent Him bound.
CHORUS Art thou not one of His disciples?
RECIT. He denied it, and said, I am not.
ARIA (Tenor) Ah! my soul, what end awaiteth thee.
CHORALE Peter in forgetfulness.

SHORT INTERVAL

PART II

CHORALE He, Whose life was as the light.
RECIT. Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas
CHORUS If this man were not a malefactor.
RECIT. Then said Pilate unto them.
CHORUS It is not lawful.
RECIT. That the saying of Jesus.
CHORALE O King of glory.
RECIT. Pilate therefore said unto Him.
CHORUS Not this man, but Barabbas.
RECIT. Now Barabbas was a robber.
ARIOSO (Bass) Come, ponder, O my soul.

RECIT. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns.
CHORUS Hail, thou King of the Jews.
RECIT. And they smote Him with their hands.
CHORUS Crucify Him.
RECIT. Pilate saith unto them.
CHORUS We have a law.
RECIT. When Pilate therefore heard that saying.
CHORALE O Christ, Thy fetters mean release.
RECIT. But the Jews cried out.
CHORUS If thou let this man go.
RECIT. When Pilate therefore heard that saying.
CHORUS Away with Him.
RECIT. Pilate saith unto them.
CHORUS We have no king but Caesar.
RECIT. Then delivered he Him unto them.
CHORUS And there they crucified Him.
RECIT. Write thou not, The king of the Jews.
CHORUS Pilate answered, What I have written.
CHORALE Thy Name is shining on me.

RECIT. The soldiers therefore, when they had crucified.
CHORUS Let us not divide it.
RECIT. That the scripture might be fulfilled.
CHORALE See Him now, the Righteous One.
RECIT. And from that hour that disciple took her.
ARIA (Contralto) All is fulfilled.
RECIT. And He bowed His head.
RECIT. And behold, the veil of the Temple.
ARIA (Soprano) O heart, melt in weeping.

RECIT. The Jews, therefore, because it was the preparation.
CHORALE Help us, O Thou Son of God.
RECIT. And after this, Joseph of Arimathea.
CHORUS Lie still, O sacred limbs.
CHORALE Ah! Lord, when my last end is come.

*And it was the
preparation of
the passover,
and about the
sixth hour, and
Pilate saith unto
the Jews,
Behold your
King!*

*They parted my
raiment among
them, and for
my vesture they
did cast lots.*

*There laid they
Jesus therefore
because of the
Jew's
preparation day;
for the sepulchre
was nigh at hand*

SURBITON ORATORIO SOCIETY

The Society was formed in January, 1949 under the then Mayor of Surbiton, Alderman W. E. Dommett. From that time when there were only 30 members, the society has flourished and increased to 80 active singing members with many honorary members and vice-presidents.

The Society gives three public performances annually, at April (Easter), October and a Carol Concert at Christmas.

The first conductor appointed was George Anderson, but since 1952, John Wilkinson, G.R.S.M.(Lond.), A.R.C.M., has been the conductor. Trained at the Royal College of Music, he is now Director of Music at one of London's Comprehensive Schools.

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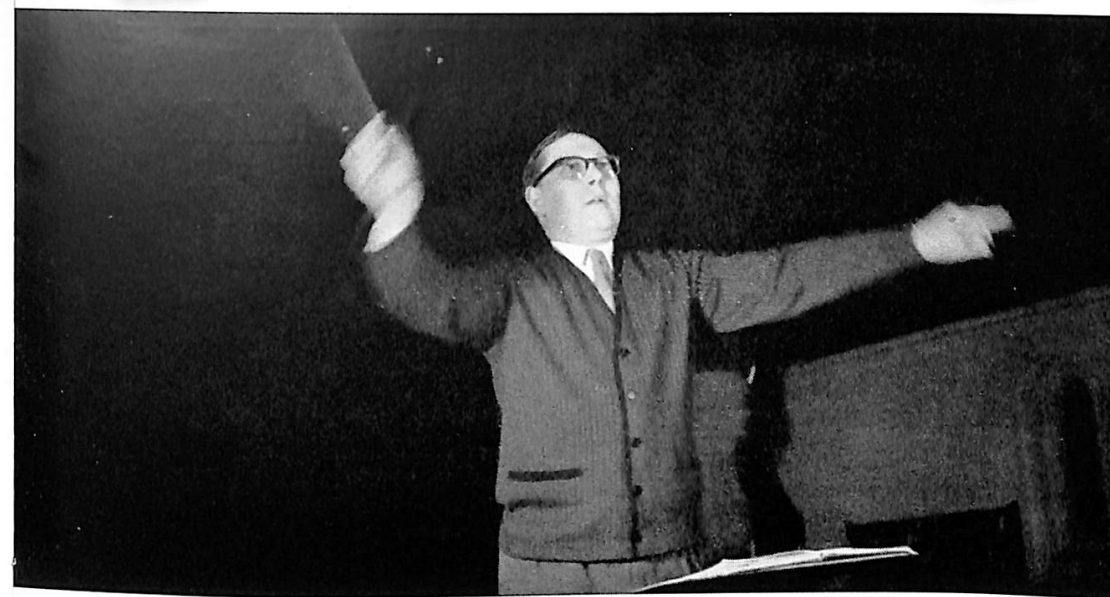
The National Federation of Music Societies, to which this Society is affiliated supports this Concert with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain.

There will be a retiring collection to help towards the expenses of this concert.

Next Concert: to include BRAHMS ALTO RHAPSODY

Programme 4s. 0d.

Sat., 19th October, 1963, St. Andrew's Church, Surbiton.



Application for Membership of the Society should be made to:

Honorary Secretary,
Mrs. N. S. COWDERY,
33 Cranborne Avenue,
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Works previously performed

Bach	-	-	-	Christmas Oratorio
Bach	-	-	-	St. John Passion
Bach	-	-	-	Cantatas Nos. 11, 106, 161, 104 & 39
Dvorak	-	-	-	Mass in D.
Brahms	-	-	-	Requiem
Handel	-	-	-	Messiah
Faure	-	-	-	Requiem
Mendelssohn	-	-	-	Elijah
Kodaly	-	-	-	Pange Lingua
Haydn	-	-	-	The Creation
Vaughan Williams	-	-	-	100th Psalm