



NOTES FROM A BIG COUNTRY

St. John's Church, Waterloo
Saturday 12th June 2010, 6.00pm

Neil Ferris
Conductor

Rebecca Moon
Soprano

Michael Higgins
Piano

Tippett - Spirituals

Whitacre - Sleep

Lauridsen - Sure on this Shining Night

Shearing - Songs and Sonnets

Gershwin - Porgy and Bess (excerpts)

Tickets: £15, £12, £10 (Students)

Box Office: 020 8605 2266

E-tickets: www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk/tickets

WIMBLEDON
CHORAL SOCIETY

NOTES FROM A BIG COUNTRY

This last concert for the 2009/10 season has an American theme, comprising music by American composers or with American influences, and is particularly apt on the 12th June as England take on the USA in the Football World Cup. (Wimbledon Choral Society have a special fondness for the Football World Cup, having sung and recorded the BBC's 1998 World Cup Theme).

Included in the concert are some of the *Five Spirituals* from Sir Michael Tippett's *A Child Of Our Time*, which was written at the beginning of World War II, and echoed British horror at the dreadful unfolding events, his own anger at the world's lack of urgency in dealing with the problem of Jewish refugees and aspects of man's inhumanity to man. Sung unaccompanied they contain lilting rhythms and soulful harmonies.

The selection of *Songs and Sonnets* by William Shakespeare are set to music by George Shearing in his inimitable jazzy style. Although born in Battersea, he moved to America when he was 38. But he has closer ties with Wimbledon as his only formal musical education consisted of four years of study at the Linden Lodge School for the Blind. The other George in the programme needs no introduction... the excerpts from *Porgy and Bess* contain all the favourite songs and choruses.

We also feature two of America's most popular contemporary composers; both admired for their shimmering and beautiful sound world, with an immediate appeal. Eric Whitacre's *Sleep* is an emotional and beautiful song about elusive but inevitable sleep. Morten Lauridsen's *Sure on this shining night* taken from his Nocturnes is an enchanting and serene lyrical setting of James Agee's poem.

Soprano Rebecca Moon will sing a setting by Samuel Barber of the same poem, as well as pieces by Copland, Bernstein, Steven Sondheim and Ned Rorem.

This programme will have broad appeal, and as there is limited audience capacity at St. John's, early booking is advisable. The start time of 6.00 pm and an anticipated finish time of 7.15 pm will allow any football fans to see the kick off at 7.30 in one of the many nearby hostelryes. It will also afford any non-football fans to have a pleasant evening in a restaurant on the South Bank! You could be in for a memorable 12th June 2010 listening to a selection of wonderfully familiar as well as some enchanting and possibly unfamiliar music.

St John's Church, SE1 8TY is situated at the south end of Waterloo Bridge, opposite Waterloo station. British Rail Waterloo and Waterloo East Underground: Waterloo Buses: 1,4, 26, 68, 77, 149,168, 171, 171A, 176,188, 381, 501, 505, 507, 521, D1, X68. Waterloo is served by the Bakerloo, Jubilee, Northern tube lines.