

NEWSLETTER

In this Newsletter

2010: The Year of Rutland Boughton

– the year so far!!!



2010: THE YEAR OF RUTLAND BOUGHTON

The celebrations surrounding the 50th year anniversary since the death of Rutland Boughton have been wide and well supported and beyond our expectations. Details of all known events will continue to be published on the Trust website – www.rutlandboughtonmusictrust.org.uk – but, as a résumé for our readers, here are the highlights of 2010 so far.

From 16 January 2010 to end of May, and by courtesy of the curator David Erskine, the Buckinghamshire County Museum in Boughton's birthplace, Aylesbury, some of the composer's memorabilia have been on display. Most of this has had a local connection. This included a copy of Boughton's score of the *Aylesbury Games* and programmes of performances given by Charles Pope, a close friend and supporter of the composer, and his orchestral society. The impact of this display provoked a full-page article in Bucks Herald "Time to forgive and remember"; letters from local residents, including one from the soprano Jean Hammond who recalled her role as Etain in a production of *The Immortal Hour* in 1979, and inclusion of the *Aylesbury Games* in a "Last Night of the Proms" concert to mark the closure of the Aylesbury Civic Centre. By invitation, Ian Boughton gave a short talk on his grandfather at the Museum, focusing on his earlier life at Aylesbury after which he met Professor W R Read (former tutor at the Aylesbury Grammar School) who, in his book "Aylesbury – A Personal memoir from the 1920's" reports that he was born at No 37 Buckingham Street - the same house where William Boughton (Rutland's father) ran his shop.



On 6 February, the Havant Symphony Orchestra, under their conductor Peter Craddock, performed Boughton's *Concerto for Flute and Strings* finely executed by flautist Catherine Nicholson. whilst on 20 March, the Birmingham Clarion Singers included the *Faery Song* in its evening concert. On 1 May, the Amaretti Chamber Orchestra under their conductor Andrew Hodgkinson, performed the *Concerto for Oboe and Strings No 1*, with Philip Dewhurst as soloist, and on 15 May, the Newent Orchestral Society performed the *Three Folk Dances* at the Newent Memorial Hall where a special exhibition had been mounted on Rutland Boughton. Bill Anderton, leader of the orchestra and organiser of the event, has sent the Trust the following report for this Newsletter:-

"During the Spring of this year, the Newent Orchestral Society, in response to the 2010 anniversary of Rutland Boughton, has been busy promoting his life and works. Rutland Boughton lived for some years until his death at Kilcot just outside the small, medieval market town of Newent, in Gloucestershire and this fact has, locally, gone largely unnoticed. However, the Society's promotional work and its sponsoring of the current Newent Heritage Project have, and are, helping to change this.

Recent exhibitions in the town centre and a heritage concert featuring Rutland Boughton were successful and attracted attention from a considerable number of people. Information about the composer is as a result now included in a permanent exhibition in the town centre as part of the Newent's wider heritage. Three small, but significant, additional successes worth mentioning is:

- inclusion of Rutland Boughton on the local tourist map which highlights points and places of local interest;
- a proposal to name a road in Newent after Rutland Boughton (BOUGHTON ROAD); and
- a new tourist information brochure now being produced which will draw attention to his musical importance to English music.

All this is contributing to reinstating Rutland Boughton as an important composer in the history of our Country's music making. A further boost might come in the future if it were possible to lobby the influential Three Choirs Festival (which visits alternately each year to Hereford, Worcester and Gloucester cathedrals) to include works by Boughton. These would certainly sit well alongside the other major English composers that the Festival brings to its audiences"

Also in May, Strode Theatre in Street, Somerset, launched a new documentary film about Glastonbury and its cultural history from the early 20th century to the present day using archive film and other source material. The film mainly focuses on Bligh-Bond, Buckton and Boughton and has been compiled by Dr Tim Hopkinson-Ball, local historian, who narrates the programme and is seen interviewing Michael Eavis (founder of the current Glastonbury Festival); the conductor Charles Hazlewood



and local Glastonbury and Street residents. The film is due to be fully available to the public in the near future.

A major event of the year so far was "The 2010 Rutland Boughton Festival" which took place in Hitchin from 14-16 May. With an all-Boughton programme, which was the inspiration of our Music Adviser, Paul Adrian Rooke, the Festival included a well executed recital of Boughton's **Songs** by Louise Mott (mezzo) and Alexander Taylor (piano) - the artistes involved in the recording of Boughton Songs on the BMS label; excellent recitals of the rarely heard **Sonata for Violin and Piano** with Shulah Oliver accompanied by Simon Marlow and the **'Cello Sonata** with Harriet Jeffrey (accompanied by Simon Marlow); and refreshing performances of both the **String Quartet No 1 in A major** and **String Quartet No 2 in F major**, both played by The Astaria Quartet.

The highlight of the Festival was the commemorative concert given by the Hitchin Symphony Orchestra on 15 May in which the **Symphony No 2 ("Deirdre")** and the **Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra** (soloist David Hilton and conducted by Paul Adrian Rooke) were adjoined by the world premiere performance of the **Overture to the Cycle of Arthurian Music Dramas**, a piece that had been completed by its composer in 1946 to round-off Boughton's life-long dream of producing a cycle of Music Dramas based on King Arthur.

In May, one of Boughton's later *a cappella* choral pieces – **God is our Hope and Strength** – was premiered by the Pro-Oxford Singers under Michael Smedley, in a programme which also featured two of Boughton's **Six Spiritual Songs**. Although the composer's music is not appearing at the BBC Proms 2010, a number of Boughton's works have been aired on BBC Radio 3 including the **Celtic Lullaby**, sung by the BBC Singers, and the finale to **The Immortal Hour**.

In June there was a performance the **Three Folk Dances** by the Chichester String Ensemble, and in July, two pieces for oboe and strings (**Somerset Pastoral** and **The Passing of the Faery**) were given by John Harper and Paul Stubbings at the Deal Festival. The Astaria Quartet gave a further performance of the **String Quartet No 2** in a London concert in July which will be repeated in Worcester later in the year. Also in July, the Trust organised a commemorative song recital in Hitchin – performed by Neil Simon and Ian Boughton - which included arias from **The Immortal Hour** and **The Queen of Cornwall** as well as one of the **Songs of the English**.

And so for the latter part of 2010.....!



In the Autumn, there will be two performances of the ***Symphony No 3 in B minor*** – one by the Aylesbury Symphony Orchestra and the other by the Manchester Beethoven Orchestra - and a broadcast of more of Boughton's partsongs sung by the BBC Singers.

Recording projects

The Trust is pleased to announce two sponsored world premiere projects.

Three of Boughton's symphonic poems – ***A Summer Night, Troilus & Cressida*** (later called ***Thou & I***) and ***Love and Spring*** – have been recorded by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra under Martin Yates.

The Trust's 25-year long aim to have ***The Queen of Cornwall*** recorded was finally rewarded in July. The recording, which was made by The New London Orchestra and Chorus under Ronald Corp with a fine line of soloists, is a landmark for success.

Both recordings will appear on the Dutton Epoch label and released in the Autumn/Winter 2010. More details and full information, including photographs, about the recording sessions and the works will appear in the next *Newsletter*.

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Acknowledgments

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The Rutland Boughton Music Trust was established in 1978 as a registered charity to encourage performances and more particularly sponsor recordings of Boughton's finest works. The Trust's financial resources depend mainly on royalties generated from performances and broadcasts and donations from third parties. If you would like to make a contribution, please contact the Trust at the following address: 25 Bearton Green, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 1UN, UK. Tel: 01462 434318. Email: Boughtontrust@aol.com www.rutlandboughtonmusictrust.org.uk Charity No: 276012/ACL