

THE CARICE
SINGERS
Director George Parris

ETERNAL BE THE SLEEP

Hubert Parry and the First World War

Gustav Holst (1874-1934) – *Nunc Dimittis*

Edward Elgar (1857-1934) – *They are at rest*

C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918) – *Sorrow and pain*

Herbert Howells (1892-1983) – *Psalm 121*

Requiem aeternam (2)

Ivor Gurney (1890-1937) – *Since I believe in God the Father Almighty*

Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951) – *I know that my redeemer liveth*

W. Dennis Browne (1888-1915) – *God is our Strength and Song*

- SHORT INTERVAL -

C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918) – *Songs of Farewell*

i) *My Soul, there is a country*

ii) *I know my soul hath power*

iii) *Never weather-beaten sail*

iv) *There is an old belief*

v) *At the round earth's imagined corners*

vi) *Lord, let me know mine end*

16 singers and director

Duration: 1 hour, excluding an interval

PTO for a programme synopsis

ETERNAL BE THE SLEEP

On 7th October 1918, almost exactly a month before the Western Front fell quiet for the final time, the renowned English composer Hubert Parry died. His extensive musical output, consisting of symphonies, oratorios, songs, and chamber works, as well as his far-reaching influence as Head of the Royal College of Music in has since earned him the admiration and undying gratitude of a great many later musicians and composers.

It is difficult to know what caused Parry to write his remarkable *Songs of Farewell* between 1913-1915. He certainly knew his health was failing, yet he may also have been provoked by the events of the First World War and the losses among his own friends and students which, in the words of Herbert Howells, “cast a devastating shadow over Parry’s mind and heart”.

The programme also features a work by one of Parry’s more famous pupil, Gustav Holst, and includes music by two soldiers of the First World War. Ivor Gurney’s extraordinary setting of Robert Bridges’ *Since I believe in God the Father Almighty* was written in 1925 during the poet and composer’s intense creative period while he was incarcerated in the City of London Mental Hospital. In contrast, Denis Browne’s joyful *God is our Strength and Song* shows the considerable talents of someone who may have become a significant name in British music. The motet was written in 1912, three years before Browne tragically lost his life fighting in Turkey.

Another great admirer of Parry's music was Edward Elgar, whose solemn anthem, *They are at rest* was written for a service commemorating the anniversary of Queen Victoria’s death in 1910. The masterly setting of Cardinal Newman's words manages to be both comforting yet chilling in its stillness.

George Parris

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