



Productions Presents . . .

HOWARD-BLAKE'S

(Composer of 'The Snowman')

70th BIRTHDAY CONCERT

in the town of his ancestors

Saturday 8th March 2008

7.30pm

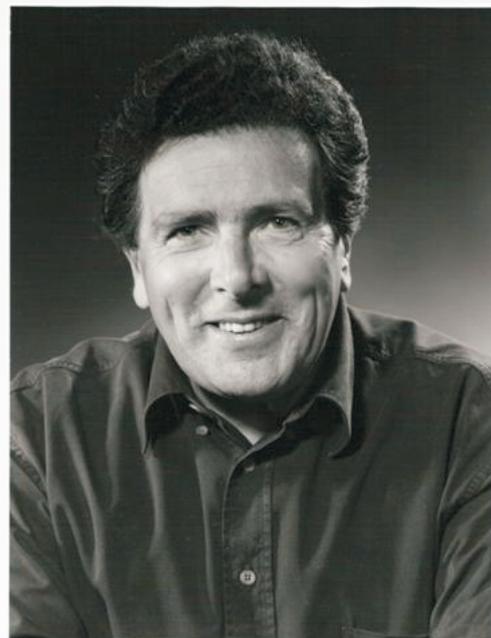
at

Woodbridge Quay Church

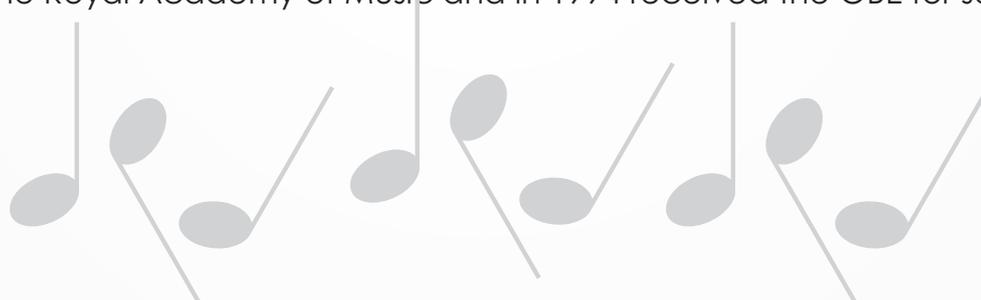
Programme

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HOWARD BLAKE



The most recent edition of Groves Dictionary of Music and Musicians stated: 'Howard Blake has achieved fame as pianist, conductor and composer.' He grew up in Sussex, from the age of 11 singing lead roles as a boy soprano and at 18 winning the Hastings Festival Scholarship to The Royal Academy of Music, where he studied piano with Harold Craxton and composition with Howard Ferguson. Over an intensely active career he has written numerous film scores, including 'The Duellists' with Sir Ridley Scott and Lord David Puttnam, which gained the Special Jury Award at the Cannes Festival in 1977, 'A Month in the Country' with Kenneth Branagh, which gained him the British Film Institute Anthony Asquith Award for musical excellence in 1989, and 'The Snowman', which was nominated for an Oscar after its first screening on Channel 4 in 1982 and has won many other prizes internationally. His famous song 'Walking in the Air', for which he also wrote the lyrics, was the success that launched Aled Jones in 1985, whilst his concert version for narrator and orchestra is now performed world-wide as well as the full-length ballet of the same name, launched in 1997 and last year celebrating its 10th consecutive Christmas season for Sadler's Wells at The Peacock Theatre. Howard has composed many concert works, including the Piano Concerto commissioned by The Philharmonia Orchestra for the 30th birthday of Princess Diana in 1991 in which he also featured as soloist: the Violin Concerto to celebrate the centenary of the City of Leeds in 1993; the cantata to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations Organization in 1995, performed in the presence of the Royal Family in Westminster Hall; and the large-scale choral/orchestral work 'Benedictus', championed by Sir David Willcocks and the Bach Choir, given its London premiere in Westminster Cathedral in 1989 with Cardinal Hume as narrator and widely performed ever since. More recent works are 'Lifecycle' - 24 pieces for solo piano - recorded for ABC Classics in 2003; 'Songs of Truth and Glory', The Elgar Commission for the Three Choirs Festival in 2005; and a first recording of 'The Land of Counterpane' a song-cycle to words by Robert Louis Stevenson recorded in the Usher Hall Edinburgh in March 2007 with The Scottish Chamber Orchestra, which he conducted. He is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music and in 1994 received the OBE for services to music.



HOPE08

Hope 2008 is a national initiative providing churches of all shapes and sizes throughout the UK a fresh opportunity to work together across their communities over a twelve month period, taking relevant action and bringing Hope to the lives of many people.

Further information regarding the Hope 08 Initiative can be found at www.hope08.com.

WOODBIDGE QUAY CHURCH

The Church in Quay Street was established in 1651 as the first dissenting Chapel in the area. In the 1700's a separate dissenting Chapel was established in Chapel Street and over the last three years the two congregations have amalgamated their resources to serve the people of Woodbridge and the surrounding area. We have seen significant growth in the number of people coming to worship on a Sunday and as part of this amalgamation the structures of the church will be brought up to date. Further information about Woodbridge Quay Church can be found at the website: www.woodbridgechurch.org.uk

HELEN PATRICIA ELLISON (Producer, Musical Director & Violinist)

Local musician & composer Helen Ellison (née Burrows) began the piano aged 5 and the violin at 8. In 1998 she completed her BA Hons Degree in Music from Colchester Institute aged 20. Helen was awarded the Diploma of Licentiate in Composition by the London College of Music & Media in 2005. Her music has been played at various venues including Snape Maltings, St. Edmundsbury Cathedral, Suffolk Festival & various local venues. Helen is currently studying the violin with International Romanian Violinist, Remus Azoitei in London and she has been privately teaching (piano, violin, viola, singing & theory) for over 15 years. Helen has regularly produced & directed many local concerts/shows including "George Gershwin" (1998) & "A Celebration of Fred Astaire" (1999) both resulted in two major radio programmes, co-hosting & producing, with Keith Skues for BBC Eastern Counties. A movement from her orchestral ballet, "The Coral Reef" (recorded by Colchester Institute Orchestra) was broadcast on his show in November 2003.



Helen (& family) have known Howard Blake for many years. They met by chance when she was only 16, Howard "tutored" Helen on composition and she arranged some of his music for him such as the Violin Concerto in 1994. She has recently been doing music preparation work for him and during a discussion it came to light that his great-grandfather (Henry Andrews) was the Pastor at Quay Church, Woodbridge, at the same time as Helen's own ancestors (on her mother's side - "Rumsby") were attending. After visiting the church, Howard suggested and offered to provide the music for Helen to organise a concert to celebrate his 70th year 'in the land of his ancestors.'



ALEXANDRA CONNER (Soprano)

Alexandra graduated from Colchester Institute with a BA Hons in music & singing in 1999. There she was the principal soprano in the Early Music Group under the directorship of Peter Holman. Alexandra has utilised her flexible soprano voice in performances of different musical styles, including German Lieder, English song and Operetta.

Alexandra first became interested in Opera when she spent a time with Essex Opera before starting her degree. She performs regularly in an Acapella Trio 'Goode Companye' concentrating on Madrigals and Motets from the 15th & 16th centuries.

Alexandra was also the principle singer with the Colchester Institute's Early Music Group under the directorship of Peter Holman. In 2004 she sang with English National Opera for their production 'For the Public good' by Orlando Gough, commissioned by ENO to celebrate the centenary of the London Coliseum. Alexandra has had a variety of solo engagements around the south east. With Chelmsford Opera she has sung the role of Mercedes in 'Carmen' and Jenny Diver in 'The Beggars Opera' and Pamina in 'The Magic Flute'.

NICHOLAS FOWLER (Baritone)

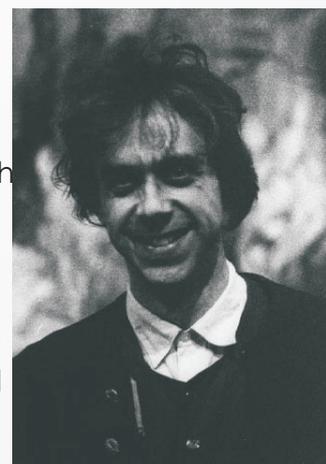
Nicholas Fowler is originally from New Zealand, although he has lived in Britain since his early teens, moving to Suffolk in 1994. He took up singing at a relatively late age, but has been steadily developing his career to the extent that he can now boast (not that he ever does) of having sung at venues in the UK ranging from the far north (Thurso near Wick) to the far south (Portsmouth), and from the far west (Anglesea Island) to the far east (Lowestoft), as well as having sung in Antwerp, Brussels, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Austria.

He has sung most of the major Mozart baritone roles and a variety of other parts ranging from Winter in Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* to Aegeus, King of Athens, in a new opera *The Minotaur* for Scottish Opera. He has sung at the Buxton, Holland Park and Spitalfields Market opera festivals and taken part in broadcast concerts on Classic FM and Greater London Radio. He appears on the *Art of Singing* CD-ROM.

His recital work includes concerts of settings by Butterworth, Peel and Moeran of A.E. Housman *A Shropshire Lad*, Schubert's *Die Schöne Müllerin*, and songs by Kurt Weill, Schubert, Brahms and Mendelssohn. Oratorio work includes Bach *Christmas Oratorio*, *St. Matthew Passion* and *B minor mass*, Haydn *Nelson Mass* and *Creation*, Frank Martin *Le vin herbé*, Mozart, Brahms, Fauré, Duruflé *Requiem*, Mozart *C minor mass*, Orff *Carmina Burana*, Mendelssohn *Elijah*, Stainer *Crucifixion* and Handel *Messiah*.

Recently he has been specializing in the Wagner repertoire, singing Alberich *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, Klingsor *Parsifal*, Kurwenal *Tristan und Isolde*, and Cecco *Rienzi* in productions and concerts in London, Edinburgh, Leeds, Longborough, High Wycombe, St. Albans and Graz in Austria.

He is currently working in several capacities for the Wagner Society of the UK and Mastersingers Company, devising, assisting and performing in Wagner-related events. He is also building up a teaching practice, teaching singing and musicianship both individually and in group sessions.



Programme Order

1st Half

Theme from the film 'The Duellist' Carol Dolan (Flute) & Val Shelley (Piano)

Make Believe Op.358 (December 1985) *from the animated film 'Granpa'*
Co-op Concertio Youth Choir

Introducing **Howard Blake**

A Toccata of Galuppi's Op.263 (April 1978) Poem by Robert Browning
Nick Fowler (Baritone) & Alan? (Piano)

Penillion Op.571 (April 1994) Theme & 6 Variations
Helen P. Ellison (Violin) & David Ruddock (Piano)

Two Songs: 'To Sleep' Op.569 (March 2006) Sonnet by Keats
& **'Farewell my gentle harp' Op.218** (January 1976)
Alexandra Conner (Soprano) & Helen P. Ellison (Piano)

'Schoenberg's Cosmic Blunder' read by Bryan Rogers & Laurence Burrows

All God's Creatures Op.468 (August 1994) Martlesham Cantilena Choir

Prologue: A Robin Redbreast in a Cage (Extract from William Blake's 'Auguries of Innocence')

1. The Tiger (Poem by William Blake, 'Songs of Experience')
2. The Lamb (Poem by William Blake, 'Songs of Innocence')
3. The Owls (Poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson)
4. The Snail (Poem by John Bunyan)
5. The Rats (Extract from Robert Browning's 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin')
6. The Swan (Anon)
7. Leviathan (Verses from 'The Book of Job')
8. The Crocodile (Poem by Lewis Carroll)
9. The Swallow (Poem by Christina Rossetti)
10. The Oxen (Poem by Thomas Hardy)

Epilogue: 'Hurt no living thing' (Poem by Christina Rossetti)

INTERVAL

Refreshments are available in the Rear Hall. Donations welcome.

2nd Half

Two Songs from 'The New National Songbook' Op.190 (November 1974)
(Lyrics by Howard Blake, inspired by 'The English Difference' by Paul Jennings):

'I don't want to be a number'
& **'Cultivating the Land'**

Martlesham Cantilena Choir & Friends

Two Songs from 'Shakespeare's Songs' Op.?:
'Dirge for Fidele' & 'Wedding Hymn'
Alexandra Conner & Helen P. Ellison

'Holy Mary' from 'Song of the Nativity' Op.? (? 19??) Nick Fowler & Alan

Introducing **'The Snowman'**

'Cradle Song' (Christmas version) read by Bridget Patterson

'Cradle Song' (All seasons version) Martlesham Cantilena Choir

'Building of the Snowman' & 'Music Box Dance' Carol Dolan & Val Shelley

'We're walking in the air' read by Rachael Snelham

'Walking in the air' Co-op Concentio Youth Choir

'Dance of the Snowmen' Carol Dolan & Val Shelley

Final words by Rev. Mark Hardingham

Pastor of Woodbridge Quay Church.

Faith Alone Can Build A City Op.438

(December 1991) (Words by Howard Blake)

Everyone, lead by Martlesham Cantilena Choir & Friends

1. Faith alone can build a city with a heart and mind and soul;
Faith can give to all God's children courage to achieve their goal;
Faith alone sustains us when we stand alone for what is good;
Faith alone supports us when our motives are misunderstood;
Every act of caring builds an evergrowing faith within,
Leads us to a joy for all eternity.
2. Hope can keep our spirits high when nothing in the world seems fair;
Hope can spread from heart to heart and show the selfish how to care;
Hope can heal the wounds of time and move our souls towards the light;
Hope can overcome despair and help us through the blackest night;
Saying Yes to living builds an evergrowing hope within,
Leads us to a joy for all eternity.
3. Love alone can join us in a holy, pure and true embrace;
Love alone can overcome our prejudice to creed and race;
Love alone can warm our hearts to feel for those who are in need;
Love alone is stronger than all envy, hate and fear and greed;
Every selfless action builds an ever-growing love within,
Leads us to a joy for all eternity.
4. God is all the good that links each member of the human race;
God is truth and beauty and the light that shows in someone's face;
God is all the faith within us, God is all the hope we bear,
God is all the love between us, faith and hope and love we share;
God alone can build a city with a heart and mind and soul,
Lead us to a joy for all eternity.



DAVID RUDDOCK (Accompanist)

David studied music at Colchester Institute from 1967 to 1971, gaining a B.Mus Degree from Durham University and a Licentiate Diploma of the Royal Academy of Music (L.R.A.M. Diploma). After teaching music in two Woodbridge Schools for nearly twenty years, he has recently been teaching piano and singing to students of all ages in their own homes. He reports on local concerts for the Evening Star newspaper and accompanies regularly at the Suffolk County Music Exams. David enjoys composing / arranging music, contributing regularly to the Trianon Music Group - choir & orchestra - for which he is an avid participating member alongside his wife, Beverley. Trianon performs 3 major concerts a year. David & Beverley help out on various Trianon committees, organising foreign tours and Community concerts which happen throughout each year. He accompanies regularly at the Suffolk County Music Exams.

CAROL DOLAN (Flautist)

Carol is a flute and piano teacher in Melton. She also teaches classroom music at Bawdsey Primary School. She plays with the band "Melton Folk", with Jody Eckersley (guitar), Chris Wilson (Keyboard and accordion), Roger Burrows (Violin) and Geneva Downes (Voice and percussion) who play for barn dances, and play music of all styles for other events.

She has also played for many years with the Music Group at St. Andrew's Church in Melton, which is how she met Val, who directs the music there, and who is accompanying her today. Carol assists Val, with others, with the "Voice for Life" children's group at church. The children will be performing a musical written by Carol, on the theme of "Respect" and based on the New Testament story of Zacchaeus, at St. Andrew's on 8th May, with the assistance of children from two local schools.

So much of Carol's musical life has been enriched by her friendship with Val and with other musicians both in church and out, and by Val's encouragement to "...share the ministry of music..."

VAL SHELLEY (Accompanist)

Val trained for specialist school music, and over a long career of school music teaching was fortunate enough to teach from "A" Level to infants! She is still enjoying the "buzz" of music-making, teaching piano, singing, organ and theory. Val's "gap year" was a year spent with Ivy Benson's Band, in the '60s.

She now plays with "Diversions". Val, Sylvia Fairley (flute) and John Stafford (double bass) play charming music for weddings and special events. For the last twenty years, she has been playing the organ and managing the choir and music group at St. Andrew's. She has composed pieces for Christmas, Remembrance, the 125th anniversary and other special occasions, including a lovely setting of the Eucharist which we sing each week.

She tirelessly and fun-lovingly encourages and directs the "Voice for life" children's choir, and she and Carol present a pupils' concert each term, in the church, to help allay exam nerves, and give the children a wider experience of repertoire and performance.

Carol and Val feel delighted and honoured to have been invited to Howard's birthday concert to play his wonderful and much-loved music from "The Snowman", and the less well-known, but equally beautiful, music from "The Duellists".

ALAN (Accompanist)

Alan

BRYAN ROGERS (Compère)

Bryan was born in Essex, "between the wars," into a Methodist family. Music, and particularly hymn singing was second nature. While serving in the Royal Navy he met, and married Myrtle, who was teaching music and went on to become an accompanist and creator and conductor of children and adult choirs. Bryan was "chair mover," "chairman," soloist and chorister.

Now retired, and living locally, he can quite frequently be found "down on the Deben."



East of England
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

Martlesham Cantilena Choir

The Choir was formed in 2006 by Helen Ellison. They performed for the 1st time during October 2006 at the Suffolk Festival of Performing Arts and won the Women's Choir Class. Our repertoire is mainly light and popular music. They have provided musical entertainment for local groups; Martlesham W.I., Levington W.I. and Martlesham In Bloom.

Maureen Burrows
Sonya Burrows
Jo Dixon
June Everson
Liz Holmes
Pauline Jordan
Jackie Nayler
Bridget Patterson
Rachael Snelham

& Friends

Joan Butcher
Beverley Ruddock
Pat Shannon
William Bell
Roger Burrows
Sam Shannon
David Ruddock

Co-op Concentio Youth Choir

The Co-op Concentio Youth Choir are a lively choir for 11 - 18yrs. All abilities are welcome to join this friendly group who rehearse on a Thursday, 4.30pm - 6pm during term time at the Co-op Education Centre, Ipswich. The choir performs in the annual 'Co-op Music Fest' and are happy to perform concerts for external organisations.

For further information please contact:

Co-op Education Centre, 11 Fore Street, Ipswich, IP4 1JW.
Tel. 01473 280316

Email: education@eastofengland.coop

Eleanor Brindle
Lily Buckley
Eleanor Cripps
Amy Greig
Katie Greig
Charlotte Griffin
Danielle Houston
Francesca Houston
Natasha Houston

Natalie Kermath
Rebecca McCarthy
Anna Pritchard
Holly Rudge
Abbie Smith
Meghann Taylor
Bianca Tella
Olivia Tella
Jessica Wilmott

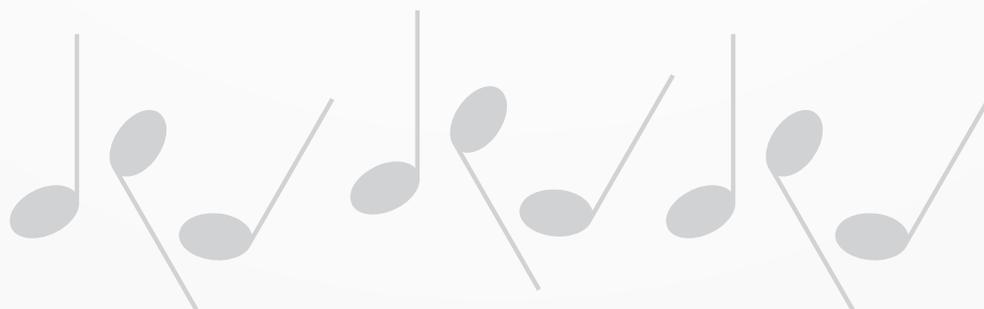
SOUND & LIGHTING

Eric Johnson



THANK YOU TO...

Rev. Mark Hardingham & Woodbridge Quay Church
for the use of the premises and support of this concert.
Maureen, Laurence & Sonya Burrows, for helping with publicity/admin.
The Piano was hired from 'Piano Porfolio'.
The parents of the Co-op Concentio Youth Choir.
Volunteers who helped with refreshments and 'Front-of-house'.
Thank you to John Ellison and all who have helped with the concert.



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Web: www.helenpatriciaburrows.com

Forthcoming events 2008 include:

3pm, Saturday 28th June

St. Michael's Church Centre, Martlesham Heath
Concert given by the Students of Helen Ellison.

1.10pm, Tuesday 2nd September

St.Mary-Le-Tower Church, Ipswich

Helen Ellison (Violin) & David Ruddock (Piano)