

Organ Concerto No.13 in F The Cuckoo and the Nightingale G.F. HANDEL
(1685 – 1759)

Larghetto
Allegro
Organo ad libitum
Larghetto
Allegro

This Concerto was probably first used during the premiere of **Israel in Egypt** in April 1739. Roge Fiske has suggested that the birdsong element which earned it the nickname 'The Cuckoo and the Nightingale' was introduced by Handel to portray an April evening. The cuckoo is rather more obvious than the nightingale and certainly this is a less serious work than the G minor Concerto heard before the interval.

Suite No.2 in B minor BWV 1067

J.S. BACH
(1685 – 1750)

Overture
Rondeau
Sarabande
Bourree 1 and 11
Polonais
Menuet
Badinerie

The second of four orchestral suites – scored for strings, flute and continuo – is, like its companion works, cast in the form of a French Overture. A stately and strongly accented introduction leads to a lively fugal section in which an extended central passage gives some prominence to the flute. A return to the measured rhythm of the opening concludes the movement. Now follows a succession of stylized dances commencing with a charming Gavotte-like **Rondeau**. This in turn gives way to a **Sarabande** where, in strict canon, the melody is played in the bass one whole bar later than in the flute and violin. Next, two quicker dances, the **Bourree** and **Polonais**. Here, in each case, the opening section is repeated after a contrasted central episode which in the Polonais takes the form of a florid variation for the soloist over the now brass-orientated melody. A **Menuet** and **Badinerie**, the latter a brilliant virtuoso flourish for the solo instrumentalist, round off the work in fine style.

Peterborough String Orchestra

The Peterborough String Orchestra was founded in 1983 by Joanna Borrett. The first concert was given in January 1984 and during the year, the Orchestra gave over 40 concerts, plus presentations in schools and work places. A successful London debut was made in January of this year and visits to the continent are now planned.

James Parsons

James Parsons was born in 1951 and studied the organ with the noted Birmingham recitalist and teacher, George Miles, before going up to Oxford in 1969 as Parry/Wood Organ Scholar of Exeter College. Whilst reading Music there, he became prominent as an organ recitalist under the guidance of David Lumsden and Ralph Downes, proceeding to the Royal Academy of Music in 1972 for post-graduate study with Geraint Jones and Michael Austin. He won the R.A.M. Budge Prize in 1973, the Rushworth Trust Prize at Southport National Organ Competition in 1974, and was a finalist in the 1980 Manchester International Organ Festival.

Since 1980, he has undertaken three recital tours in the U.S.A.

His records, **Organ Music from Blundell's School** and **Parsons plays Church** were warmly greeted by the British recording journals. His latest disc, **J.L. Krebs – The Organ Works, Volume 1**, is a brilliant presentation – the first in his new series which aims to introduce to a wide audience all the organ music of Bach's best pupil.

Sheila Lawrence

Sheila Lawrence, after finishing at the Royal Academy of Music, went abroad to complete her studies with Tagliavini and others. A specialist in early music, Sheila Lawrence has played many times on the South Bank, in most British cathedrals, and throughout Europe.

She has just played at the St. Albans Festival, and will soon be making a tour in Italy.

Clare Southworth

Born in 1956, Clare studied at The Royal Northern College of Music with Trevor Wye, gaining both Performers and Graduate diplomas and winning The Hiles Gold Medal for orchestral playing.

She has performed concertos with distinguished conductors including Edward Downes and Emanuel Hurwitz, and has appeared in concerts at The Wigmore Hall and the Cheltenham International Festival.

As one of the 1980 winners of the North West Arts Young Musicians Platform, Clare has given concerts throughout the country, as a soloist and as a member of the chamber music group CONTRASTS.

In 1981 she was winner of the National Flute Association's Young Artist Competition in the U.S.A.