

**London; 18 July 2017**

The title of Tony Dutton's programme was **Resurrected Operatic Rarities and some Spoken Words**, rarity defined as neglected composers, seldom heard works and/or unusual recordings.

Part one was something of a miscellany. The first piece was introduced as a technical explanation of the workings of an acoustic sound generator. It turned out to be a jolly 1930s Parlophone test recording of *The Music Goes Round and Round (and it comes out here)*. Next we heard two pieces by Carl Zeller: *Sei nicht böß* from *Der Obersteiger* and the *Nightingale Song* both sung by Elizabeth Schumann. Then a bit of spoof oratorio (the *Horroratorio*), a monologue from Mrs Buggins (Mabel Constanduros) on an 8 inch Eclipse record (including references to gible pie - not sure I could stomach that) and *Laughing Gas*, featuring Cicely Courtneidge, a canister of which at the reading of a will has predictable consequences. We moved onto a higher plane as Alfred Noyes read his splendid poem *The Highwayman* followed by selections from Franz von Suppé's little known light opera *Boccaccio* featuring the soprano Anni Frind. Part two was given over to longer selections of light opera including *Reinleider Potpourri* featuring music by Otto Höser, Nicolai's merry drinking song sung by Oscar Natzka and selections from *The Cousin from Nowhere* by Eduard Künneke. Particularly enjoyable were Norman Allin's rendition of *She alone charmeth my sadness* and Walter Widdop's *Lend me your aid* from Gounod's seldom performed *Queen of Sheba*.

At the outset Tony had explained that the programme was intended as a light-hearted occasion offering a selection of recordings that might entertain. That modest aim was well met and exceeded during an enjoyable evening.

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