

# "NORFOLK NIGHT"



STUART HALL, NORWICH

5th May, 1952, at 7-30 p.m.

## THE ARTS—AND THE CRAFT

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When the Norfolk Wherry Trust was founded in February, 1949, few could have foreseen that within three years it would be arranging an evening devoted to music and the arts. This may seem to be far removed from the task of preserving a sailing craft, yet the wherries, playing their part in the life of the district for three hundred years or

more, contributed in no small measure to those conditions which produced the poets and composers represented in this programme.

The division between the work-a-day sailing vessels and the music of Hook and the poetry of Suckling and Greene is, therefore, probably more apparent than real. In any event, the opportunity is provided of hearing works which span the period from the wherries' origin late in the 16th century, to their virtual extinction in the 1930s.

The *Albion* was bought, repaired and put back into service to prevent their total disappearance, and to continue for as long as possible the tradition of the black sail with all that it has stood for on the rivers of Norfolk and Suffolk. The aim of "Norfolk Night" is to interest an ever wider public in this endeavour and to augment the funds so necessary for its achievement.



THE ALBION

The Trust is honoured and deeply grateful that so many distinguished figures should have deemed the occasion worthy of their presence, and its warmest thanks are due to Miss Cocks and the Cecilian Quartet for so kindly, and at very short notice, taking the places of Miss Long, Mr. Britten and Mr. Pears ; to Mr. Edwards, Mr. Samuel and Mr. Grapes ; to Dr. Ralphs and the team of authors, comprising Miss Harland, Miss Starr, Mr. Mottram and Mr. Fowler ; to those appearing in the tableau ; to Mr. Kearney for the backcloth, and to Miss Bush, who first thought of the "Norfolk Night", for arranging and introducing the whole programme.

# PROGRAM

Arranged and Introduced

## 1. SIDNEY GRAPES

Some Norfolk Yarns

## 2. RENA COCKS

Stalham River (Bacton) 1921 }  
Windmills (1922) }  
Prelude in G minor (1935) }

E. J. Moeran  
(1894-1950)

E. J. Moeran was born in London, of Irish descent, but spent his early life in Norfolk where his father held the living of Bacton. His works include arrangements of many Norfolk folk-songs, which he discovered and noted down and their influence is felt in much of his original music.

## 3. JEANNE BUSH

The Shepherd's Wife's Song

Robert Greene  
(1560-1592)

The Constant Lover

Why so pale and wan, fond lover? }

Sir John Suckling  
(1609-1642)

Robert Greene was born in Norwich and after taking a degree at Cambridge in 1578 travelled extensively in Spain and Italy. Despite his subsequent dissipated and profligate life he was an industrious writer and produced many delightful lyrics. He died of a surfeit of pickled herrings and Rhenish wine.

Sir John Suckling, although born in Twickenham, came of an old Norfolk family. He invented the game of Cribbage and was described as a sparkling wit and the greatest gallant and gamester of his day. *Why so pale and wan, fond lover?* comes from his play *Aglaura*.

## 4. THE CECILIAN QUARTET

JOYCE GOW, *Soprano*

SILVIA BEAMISH, *Contralto*

LYNDON VANDERPUMP, *Tenor*

JAMES ATKINS, *Bass*

Love me not for comely grace }

Adieu, sweet Amaryllis }

Tho' Philomela lost her love

John Wilbye  
(1574-1638)

Thomas Morley  
(1557-1603)

Oyez! has any found a lad?

Thomas Tomkins  
(1572-1656)

John Wilbye, one of the greatest of the Elizabethan madrigal composers, was born in Diss. He received the patronage of the Cornwallis family at Brome Hall, of Sir Thomas Kytson at Hengrave, and finally joined the household of Lady Rivers at Colchester, where he died. He contributed *The Lady Oriana* to the collection of madrigals written in honour of Queen Elizabeth called *The Triumphes of Oriana*. Thomas Morley edited this work, and contributed to it, as did Thomas Tomkins.

## 5. TWENTY QUESTIONS

Question Master: F. Lincoln Ralphs

The Team of Authors: Elizabeth Harland, Leonora Starr,  
R. H. Mottram, Eric Fowler.

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

# AMME

by JEANNE BUSH

## 6. THE CECILIAN QUARTET

It was a lover and his lass  
Come away, death }  
Where the bee sucks }  
Thomas Morley  
Thomas Arne  
(1710-1778)

## 7. PERCY EDWARDS

“While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough  
In England—Now!”

## 8. EDGAR SAMUEL and SIDNEY TWEMLOW

“Songs of Travel”  
The Vagabond  
The Roadside Fire  
Bright is the Ring of Words  
R. Vaughan Williams  
b. 1872

Vaughan Williams collected many Norfolk folk-songs in the King's Lynn district at the beginning of the century, and between 1906 and 1907 produced the three *Norfolk Rhapsodies* for orchestra. The “Songs of Travel”, to words by R. L. Stevenson, have for long been among the most popular of his smaller works.

## 9. JEANNE BUSH

The Passing of the Norfolk Wherry }  
Sailing on Albion }  
E. A. Ellis

## 10. RENA COCKS

Andantino Pastorale }  
Rondo }  
Air, Slow Dance and Allegretto }  
Andantino }  
Minuet }  
James Hook  
(1746 - 1827)  
Charles Burney  
(1726—1814)

James Hook was born in Norwich and studied under Garland, the Cathedral organist. In London he was engaged as organist and composer at Marylebone Gardens and later at Vauxhall Gardens. He is said to have written upwards of 2,000 songs, cantatas, catches, etc., as well as concertos for harpsichord and sonatas for the pianoforte.

Charles Burney studied under Dr. Arne and is associated with Norfolk through being organist at King's Lynn from 1751-60. Between 1776 and 1789 he published his *General History of Music* after travels which took him to Italy, France, Germany and the Netherlands. He was not a prolific composer but amongst his works are several concertos for harpsichord. He was the father of Fanny Burney.

## 11. TABLEAU VIVANT—“Norfolk Scrapbook”

The Narrator: R. H. Mottram The Boy: Rodney Clark

## Among those taking part

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RENA COCKS is Norwich born and studied the pianoforte at the Royal Academy of Music under Charles Reddie. She has broadcast on many occasions and appeared with the Norwich Philharmonic Orchestra in the Tchaikovsky pianoforte concerto. Her undertaking to play Kathleen Long's entire programme at only a few days notice is greatly appreciated.

THE CECILIAN QUARTET, comprising Joyce Gow, Soprano, Silvia Beamish, Contralto, Lyndon Vanderpump, Tenor and James Atkins, Bass, was formed in the summer of 1950 to perform secular music for solo or combined voices from the earliest times up to and including the 18th century. The Quartet made its London debut in June last year, since when it has performed at many concerts throughout the country and broadcast two madrigal programmes. The inclusion of madrigals in this evening's programme is particularly appropriate as East Anglia produced many famous composers in this genre.

PERCY EDWARDS was born in Ipswich and is probably without rival in his particular field of entertainment. His impressions of the countryside, especially his imitations of bird songs, show him to be a meticulous student of nature and it is not surprising, therefore, to find that amongst other things he is a Fellow of the Zoological Society. Only within the last few days has he returned from the Shetlands where he has been seeking the calls of several rare species to add to his collection.

EDGAR SAMUEL, at present serving in the R.A.F., was born at Felixstowe in 1932. Educated at Epsom College, he studied singing under J. P. Somans-Cocks and took the lead in *Elijah*. He first sang in public at the age of 3 and has recently gained a place at Christ's College, Cambridge as a chorister.

SIDNEY GRAPES hardly needs to be described as "born in Norfolk" because he could not well have been born anywhere else! One tends to think of humorists being the monopoly of the North Country but Sidney Grapes effectively dispels that illusion, drawing his material from those earthy Norfolk characters who always seem something of an enigma to the outside world. Tonight, however, he should feel properly at home!

JEANNE BUSH was born in Norwich in 1929 and educated at Felixstowe College and the Birmingham School of Drama. Appeared as Liz Frobisher in *The Distaff Side* at the Apex Theatre, Birmingham, working subsequently at the Connaught Theatre, Worthing. Has given several poetry and dramatic recitals recently in which the work of Norfolk poets has been to the fore.

*The backcloth was designed and executed by Patrick N. Kearney*