



The Eurythmy Association of Great Britain and Ireland

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Michaelmas 2009

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Dear Eurythmy Colleagues

MAJOR PROJECTS FOR 2011 & 2012

As you may be aware from discussions in the Eurythmy Association Newsletter and at recent Annual General Meetings (AGM) there has been a wish to undertake a number of larger eurythmy projects in the British Isles (Great Britain and Ireland). At the latest AGM, members present supported the decision to go ahead in principle with two major projects over the coming three years.

The first project is to begin the planning of a major public eurythmy festival in Summer 2012 to celebrate the centenary of eurythmy. Hopefully a way could be found to present all aspects of eurythmy (art, therapy, education and social work) in an open public conference that would raise the profile of eurythmy and celebrate its work in the British Isles. A major "cornerstone" of the Festival would be the artistic presentation of an orchestral symphonic work in eurythmy involving a larger number of eurythmists from throughout the British Isles.

The second project is to work on an English presentation of Rudolf Steiner's poem "The Twelve Moods" (first shown in August 1915) for Spring 2011. The poem artistically brings to expression the whole of anthroposophical cosmology as well as expressing the archetypal forces underlying the formation of the human being.

These ideas were presented at a meeting with representatives of the Association of Eurythmy Schools (representing all four of the current eurythmy schools), the Eurythmy Therapy Association and the Eurythmy Therapy Training in early September. As both projects will require very large resources in terms of planning, finance and people it is important that all the major eurythmy organisations in the British Isles are able to support these initiatives. Following an intensive discussion our colleagues felt able to lend their support. The Eurythmy Association will act as overall sponsor but an "initiative group" will be formed for each project. The "initiative group" for each project will take responsibility for its further organisation and planning and the appointment of relevant directors. It is important to stress that although initial planning has begun, both projects are still in their infancy. There are many details still to be resolved and this will require considerable work over the coming years. Further details of where each project stands are provided below.

We are now writing to all eurythmists throughout the British Isles to ask for your support and participation. We hope as many colleagues as possible will feel able to participate

either directly in the artistic work, or with the many associated tasks of planning, support and organisation. Above all we hope that your support and goodwill will enable these projects to set sail with “a fair wind”.

Although we have attempted to send these details to all eurythmists it is almost inevitable that we will be unaware of all colleagues currently living in the British Isles. Please do share this information with all your colleagues so that the information is disseminated as widely as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you shortly.

With Michaelmas greetings

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Mehta". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval shape.

Michael Mehta

For and on behalf of the Council of the Eurythmy Association

Lynda Abrahams, Marie-Reine Adams, Diana Fischer-Schickler, Melissa Harwood, Mary Watson, Lee Whitaker & Aaron Winter

“Twelve Moods Project”

In recent years the “Twelve Moods” (GA 40) has been presented three times under the guidance and direction of Hayo Dekker. The current plan is to work further with the original material and to deepen the artistic work through ongoing study as an integral part of the rehearsal process. It was always Rudolf Steiner’s intention that the “Twelve Moods” should be presented together with its accompanying satire “A Song of Initiation”. To our knowledge, the latter has never been undertaken in English. The aim is to present an English re-working of the full original programme of August 1915. This would consist of:

The Cosmic Measure/Prelude (Kosmische Auftakt)
The Planetary Dance (Planetentanz)
The Twelve Moods (Zwoelf Stimmungen)
The Song of Initiation (Das Lied von der Initiation).

There would be a need to work with the existing translations and perhaps to work on them further. In addition there is accompanying music by Jan Stuten for the “Twelve Moods” and it is envisaged that further original music would be commissioned for “The Song of Initiation”.

The programme would be presented in Spring 2011 and taken around the British Isles most probably as part of a study day for colleagues working out of anthroposophy. The exact form of such a day has to be determined but could conceivably include a first showing of the presentation, a lecture, a workshop for the participants and then a further showing in the evening open to other visitors.

Rehearsals would need to start this Autumn and an outline rehearsal and performance schedule is attached. The initial meeting will be kindly hosted by Camphill Delrow Community in November and at the time of writing it is likely that rehearsals up to next Summer would take place in London. Participants would be expected to commit to attending the rehearsals and to work with the material between sessions. It is important to note that although we hope to provide for travel expenses and necessary costs through fund raising, at the time of writing no such funds exist. We sincerely hope that the collective will to take this forward will enable the funds to be found. Priority for allocation of such funds would be given to those that have to travel longer distances (eg Scotland/Ireland) although we hope that with notice of the rehearsals people would endeavour to book advance tickets to save costs.

The working process is intended to be collegiate but responsibility for casting and direction will rest with the “initiative group” and appointed directors. We are delighted that Ursula Zimmerman (Dornach) and Michael Leber (Stuttgart) have already agreed to provide directorial input and oversight into the “Twelve Moods” and “Song of Initiation” respectively. Both individuals will visit for a three day block at Whitsun 2010. Rehearsals will nevertheless commence in advance and will generally be held on a Saturday evening and will continue through the day on the Sunday.

The number of eurythmists required will be a minimum of 19, although a larger number would avoid the need to double all roles. We are also contacting speech artist colleagues who would be willing to work with the project.

Please complete the attached form to register your interest in participating or assisting in other ways. The project is open to all eurythmists with a diploma recognised by the Section for the Performing Arts at the School of Spiritual Science Dornach. In addition we ask that you are a member of the Eurythmy Association making regular payments by standing order. At their discretion the initiative group may accept applications from final year eurythmy students, with written notice from their School indicating that they expect the individual to graduate in Summer 2010. We would need to hear from you by Wednesday 28th October (within THREE WEEKS!)

Twelve Moods

Rehearsal Schedule 2009 to 2011: Generally 6pm on Saturday to 6pm on Sunday inclusive

Delrow Camphill Community

7th/8th November 2009 (Introductory Session)

Rudolf Steiner House - London

12th/13th December 2009

30th/31st January 2010

27th/28th February 2010

13th/14th March 2010

24th/25th April 2010

29th – 31st May 2010 (SATIRE BLOCK Michael Leber NOTE Fri eve to Sun eve)

4th – 6th June 2010 (12 MOODS BLOCK Ursula Zimmerman NOTE Fri eve to Sun eve)

Venues still to be determined:

2nd/3rd October 2010

6th/7th November 2010

4th/5th December 2010

29th/30th January 2011

26th/27th February 2011

26th/27th March 2011

29th April – 1st May (Dress Rehearsal Block + Michael & Ursula?)

2011 PERFORMANCE CYCLE (assumes set up/meeting rehearsal previous day)
(Scotland, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, London, North England, West England, Central England, Southern England)

Mon 2nd May

Sun 8th May

Sun 15th May

Sun 22nd May

Sat 28th May

Mon 30th May

Sun 5th June

Repeat rehearsals

5th/6th Nov 2011

11th/12th or 18th/19th Feb 2012

12th/13th May 2012

Eurythmy Association of Great Britain and Ireland

“Twelve Moods Project”

Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Telephone Number:

Email address:

Please tick next to the following:

- I should like to participate artistically in the “Twelve Moods Project”. I undertake to accept the artistic decisions of the initiative group and/or appointed directors and commit to fully participate in the working process. I further consent that my likeness (whether static or moving image) may be used for the purposes of advertising or publicity in connection with the project.
- I should like to offer assistance with fundraising, organisation, costumes, other (please list.....).
- I confirm that I am a member of the Eurythmy Association of Great Britain and Ireland paying by standing order.

Signed:

Date:

Please return this form to Michael Mehta

- by post to BCM Eurythmy Association of GB & Ireland LONDON WC1N 3XX
- by fax to 08717 145925
- by email to: michael.mehta@eurythmyassociation.org.uk

to arrive **no later** than Wednesday 28th October 2009.

"Eurythmy 2012 – Centenary Festival "Symphonic Project"

The "symphonic project" would form part of a central artistic programme that would form one part of a public festival of eurythmy in Summer 2012. The project would aim to draw eurythmists together from around the British Isles to produce a large orchestral work of high artistic standard. Although still to be determined, there would most likely be other speech and musical items potentially prepared by both existing and new artistic ensembles around the British Isles with a strong emphasis on English eurythmy. The Festival could also include other artistic programmes from existing ensembles both native and foreign. The Festival itself would hopefully also include presentations and workshops on all areas of eurythmy: education, therapy and eurythmy in the work place in addition to artistic performances.

The work in question has yet to be chosen but would need to have a strong link to the British Isles. Again an "initiative group" is being formed to look at what could be chosen. A decision will need to be reached by Easter 2010.

FIRST STEPS – COURSES WITH DOROTHEA MIER & MARGRETHE SOLSTAD

In the interim we are delighted to announce that Dorothea Mier has agreed to give a four day course from Saturday 13th to Tuesday 16th February 2010. The theme of the course will be working with orchestral instruments. We hope this will provide a valuable introduction for the symphonic project. The course will be open to all eurythmists with a diploma recognised by the Section for Performing Arts at the Goetheanum, as well as final year eurythmy students. The venue is yet to be determined but is likely to be in the Stroud area. The course will cost approximately £115 reduced to £100 for members of the Eurythmy Association. There will be a limited number of student reductions. Please note optional lunches and accommodation will be extra.

The Annual Summer Conference and AGM will be held between Sunday 19th and Wednesday 23rd July 2010 at the Peredur Centre, East Grinstead. Again we are pleased to confirm that Margrethe Solstad will return and she will aim to work the elements from the symphony chosen for the project. The cost for this conference will be approximately £130 reduced to £115 for members of the Eurythmy Association. In this instance food is included but accommodation will be extra.

We hope both these courses will attract many colleagues hoping to further their own artistic work regardless of whether you wish to be take part in the "symphony project" itself. Booking forms will be available some 2 months before each course but you can register your interest by returning the form below.

NEXT STEPS – REHEARSAL PERIOD AUTUMN 2010 TO SUMMER 2012

On the basis of participants attending these courses, we hope that sufficient people will be inspired to come forward to commit to the "symphony project" itself. Dorothea Mier has agreed to act as artistic advisor and will hopefully direct part of the work. The "initiative group" with assistance of Dorothea will appoint such other directors as are required and these individuals would be responsible for casting the movements for which they take charge. Those people who are cast in each movement would be expected to follow the artistic decisions of the appointed director. Some 24-36 eurythmists could potentially be required for the complete work to allow for varying degrees of participation. Again, much other assistance will be required in areas of fundraising, planning and administration together with the necessary requirements for costumes and lighting. We hope all the participants would have agreed their commitment by the end of July 2010.

The rehearsals are planned in blocks of one or two weeks, mostly at the beginning or end of terms. Please note that some of these will however take place **during** term time. An outline schedule is shown below and participants would be expected to commit to attend these and undertake practise between blocks. The hope is by releasing the schedule now that colleagues can plan for periods of absence from their work commitments. Please also be aware that although we hope to

reimburse participants necessary expenses money will need to be raised to make this possible. Again we hope the manifestation of our collective "will to create" will allow the funding to be found. Those people who commit to participate would be expected to be members of the Eurythmy Association making regular payments by standing order.

Rehearsal Blocks:

2010

Mon 6th to Sat 18th Sep (11 practice days)

Mon 13th - Sat 18th Dec (6 practice days)

2011

Mon 28th Mar – Sat 2nd Apr (6 practice days)

Mon 11th Jul – Sat 23rd Jul (11 practice days)

Mon 5th- Sat 17th Sep (11 practice days)

Mon 12th – Sat 17th Dec (6 practice days)

2012 – **STILL SUBJECT TO FINAL CONFIRMATION**

Mon 12th – Sat 18th OR Mon 20th – Sat 25th Feb (6 practice days HALF TERM WEEK)

Mon 23rd - Sat 28th Apr (6 practice days)

Tues 29th May - Fri 8th Jun (9/10 practice days)

TOTAL 72 **AVAILABLE** PRACTICE DAYS

POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE PERIOD (tbc):

Mon 11th to Sun 1st July 2012 (i.e performances would take place during these 3 weeks)
To include performances at the Eurythmy Festival and a number of larger public venues around the British Isles

Between Mon 16th to Sat 28th July possible further performance(s) at Dornach Conference?

Eurythmy Association of Great Britain and Ireland

“Centenary Symphonic Project”

Please tick next to the following:

I would be interested in participating in

- Dorothea Mier’s Course: “Working with orchestral instruments” Feb 13th – 16th 2010.
- Margrethe Solstad’s Course: “Elements of the Symphony” July 19th -23rd 2010.

Please send me the relevant booking forms when released.

I should like to

- register my interest in participating artistically in the “symphony project”.
- offer assistance with fundraising, organisation, costumes, other (please list.....).

Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Telephone Number:

Email address:

Signed:

Date:

Please return this form to Michael Mehta

- by post to BCM Eurythmy Association of GB & Ireland LONDON WC1N 3XX
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- by email to: michael.mehta@eurythmyassociation.org.uk

Please return this form by 3rd December 2009.