

Eurythmy Association of Great Britain and Ireland

Eurythmy Centennial Festival Summer 2012 - "Symphony Project"

The Eurythmy Association of Great Britain and Ireland are hoping to sponsor the creation of a "symphonic orchestral programme" in eurythmy to form a "cornerstone performance" of a public Festival in Britain celebrating the Centenary of eurythmy in Summer 2012. An integral part of the whole Festival would be the presentation of work from **all** branches of eurythmy including lay courses, education, therapy and social work (eurythmy in the workplace).

The next stage in the creation of this "symphony programme" will be a workshop with Margrethe Solstad (leader of the Section for the Performing Arts at the Goetheanum) to be held at Peredur Centre, East Grinstead from Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Although open to all qualified eurythmists and eurythmy students who successfully graduate in Summer 2010, those eurythmists who would like to participate in the large musical work would be expected to attend. Over the course of the workshop we hope to explore with Margrethe the main musical themes and how they might be brought to visibility in eurythmy. Following the workshop it will become clear as to whether we have sufficient people and interest to proceed with rehearsals and how much of the chosen works can be produced in eurythmy. In the interest of artistic integrity, the chosen directors will be responsible for the "casting" of the individual movements for which they hold responsibility. Rehearsals would then begin in September 2010 and continue in blocks over the next 2 years. Please see the list of dates below. It is important to mention however that much work still remains to be done including finding enough financial and human support to allow the project to proceed.

This "cornerstone performance" hopes to celebrate the richness of English composition in music and poetry with an emphasis on works from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The musical works chosen are by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 - 1958), the "Piano Concerto in C" and a short orchestral work "The Running Set". Although not terribly well known a recent recording by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra with the pianist Ashley Wass has brought a revival of interest. The recording is available on the Naxos label (catalogue number 8.572304 approx GBP 5 / EUR 7 / CHF 9) or can be downloaded from [www.classiconline.com](http://www.classiconline.com). Further information can also be found on the Naxos website at [www.naxos.com/catalogue/item.asp?item\\_code=8.572304](http://www.naxos.com/catalogue/item.asp?item_code=8.572304). The music has a distinctively English quality and sense of playfulness with actual or folk-song like melodies as main themes. The writing for the piano acknowledges its basis as a percussion instrument but brings out a full range of sonorities. It is anticipated that these two musical works will frame a speech eurythmy sequence by English poets. Existing British eurythmy ensembles will hopefully contribute to this part of the performance.

Now that the music has been announced we hope many people will take the opportunity to thoroughly acquaint themselves with the music. Personal experience and the first impressions of others suggest that it needs repeated listening to the chosen works to really meet what has been written by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Reading the programme notes and listening to other works by Vaughan Williams and other English composers of the period can also be a help to place the work in context.

Booking forms for Margrethe's course will be available from the Eurythmy Association website ([www.eurythmyassociation.org.uk](http://www.eurythmyassociation.org.uk) / [www.eurythmyassociation.ie](http://www.eurythmyassociation.ie)) from early June. For further information please feel free to contact us at the details below.

Warm greetings

Michael Mehta 020 7638 3202 [michael.mehta@eurythmyassociation.org.uk](mailto:michael.mehta@eurythmyassociation.org.uk)  
for the Council of the Eurythmy Association of Great Britain and Ireland  
Rehearsal Blocks:

2010

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> to Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Sep (11 practice days)

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> - Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Dec (6 practice days)

2011

Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Mar – Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr (6 practice days)

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Jul – Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Jul (11 practice days)

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> - Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Sep (11 practice days)

Mon 12<sup>th</sup> – Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Dec (6 practice days)

2012 – **STILL SUBJECT TO FINAL CONFIRMATION**

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

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Apr (6 practice days)

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

**TOTAL 72 AVAILABLE PRACTICE DAYS**

**POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE PERIOD (tbc):**

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> to Sun 1<sup>st</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> to Sat 28<sup>th</sup> July possible further performance(s) at Dornach Conference?