

As Time Goes By

Ah, autumn! The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. Those of you still thawing out from the icy blasts of the past few weeks (and still trying to remove those pesky fallen leaves from inside your house!) will doubtless be shaking your head at this sentiment. And yet Joseph Korma's classic "Autumn Leaves", in a wonderfully wistful arrangement by master arranger Andrew Carter, reminds us of the nicer parts of autumn. Autumn is also the time of harvest celebrations, and "A Thanksgiving Flourish" incorporates a traditional harvest hymn into a triumphant song of praise. On a similarly seasonal note, Shakespeare reminds us that the keenness of the winter winds such as we have been so prematurely experiencing are naught to man's ingratitude - but despite the sadness of this thought, we can still be comforted by John Rutter's beautiful setting of "Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind". And while not quite seasonal, "The Australian Sunrise" offers us a musical glimpse of that distinctive daily event in our own country, a place where the burgeoning light is like no other.

To a country that is said to experience four seasons in one day, we travel to Scotland (no, not Robertson!), with a setting of the traditional song, "Loch Lomond", a haunting reflection on lost love. And regardless of whether you take the high road or the low road, "Walk a Mile" reminds us that we will achieve better understanding of our neighbours if we do that in *their* shoes. Of course, not all of us care to walk, and "The Bicycle" is a far easier way to travel - especially if you can do it in tandem - just agree on who has control of the brake!

The horse was once an even easier mode of transport and "Magnificent Horses" is a Mongolian folksong that takes us to that country where brave horsemanship is a highly prized skill. But the advent of the *iron* horse changed lives in a way few now can comprehend; just don't forget the navvies who toiled long and hard to build the steel roads. Fortunately, "Railroad" fulfills this for us, and hints at the tremendous appetites this work created. And as for the trains themselves, none can move without the appropriate right-of-way, and "Skimbleshanks: the railway cat", recalled in Lloyd-Webber's musical *Cats*, is just the feline for the job!

From cats to birds, and a surprisingly complex arrangement (originally for The King's Singers by Daryl Runswick) of the Lennon and McCartney classic, "Blackbird". Pity the poor second tenors, who despite having only one pitch to sing in the entire work, shoulder responsibility for the backbone of the work, a mesmerizing bell-like chant that anchors the entire work - do take the time to listen to it as the tune gently washes over you! And from one flying creature to another - "Hotaru Koi", a Japanese folksong about a firefly. Of course, there is danger, when the sparrows can spot the firefly and his tell-tale glow!

In today's concert we are reminded of the cycle of life in many ways. "To Everything There Is a Season" takes the well-known words from Ecclesiastes in a new setting by Taylor Davis, while "Soldiers of the Queen" urges us to remember those who have fought in wars and not let their memory fade away and die. In this the centenary year of the Gallipoli landings, it is a timely message.

Of course, the cycle of life surely includes love - you *must* remember this! "As Time Goes By", the theme of this concert series and the song most closely associated with the movie *Casablanca*, reminds us that love is welcome the world over. Though sometimes perhaps not by the lovelorn

sufferer, as “Fyer, Fyer” reminds us! In this Elizabethan madrigal by Thomas Morley, the pains of unrequited love are likened to those from burns - and then summarily dismissed by frivolous “fa la la” refrains!

And so, in looking back we also look to the future. In “I Dream a World”, we are encouraged to think of a future where all are treated equal, while “We Rise Again”, a miners’ song, contrasts their hard lives with aspirations for their children and a better world. And in a uniquely local view of the future, “I Sing of Bundy Fantastic” (penned by our own Ken Ferrier on the occasion of Bundanoon becoming Australia’s first bottled water-free town) and the environmental significance of this move, we consider a world where we work *with* the earth for a better future.

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Repertoire

As Time Goes By

Railroad

Skimbleshanks from “Cats”

Autumn Leaves

Fyer, Fyer

Blow, Blow

Walk a Mile

A Thanksgiving Flourish

Hotaru Koi

Magnificent Horses

Soldiers of the Queen

Bundy Fantastic

Loch Lomond

The Australian Sunrise

To Everything There Is a Season

Blackbird

The Bicycle

I Dream a World

We Rise Again

Hupfeld arr. Raycroft

American folk song arr. Schram

Lloyd-Webber arr. Arch/Clipsham

Kosma arr. Carter

Morley

Rutter

Choplin arr. Hayes

Paige & Angerman (on ‘Lancashire’)

Japanese folk song arr. Ogaru/Clipsham

Mongolian folksong arr. Nan Hong Nien

Stuart arr. Clipsham

Gore arr. Lojeski/Clipsham Words - Ken Ferrier

Scottish traditional arr. Overton

Hutchens

Davis

Lennon & McCartney arr. Runswick

Walker

Thomas

Dubinsky