

## MUSIC APPRECIATION - 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024 – SESSION 9

This month, the “Desert Island Discs” format was asked for so we will listen to eight tracks chosen by Margaret Corkett. Happily, there is plenty of variety as she has chosen three pieces from the Baroque period composed by Albinoni, Handel and John Stanley, one from the classical era written by Mozart, pieces by Chopin and Vaughan Williams from the romantic era of classical music and to round up, a folk music piece and a “spaghetti western” soundtrack. The pieces all have relevance to people or events in her life so we will look more closely on the day at the particular pieces when she explains what the music means to her.

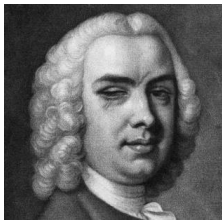
Margaret’s choices are:

1. Chopin Nocturne in E-flat major Op 9 No 2.
2. Mozart Serenade No 10 for wind instruments Gran Partita III adagio
3. Tomaso Albinoni Concerto for 2 oboes in C Major Op 9 first movement.
4. Handel Dixit Dominus (Gardiner) First Movement (chorus)
5. Vaughn Williams symphony in D 3rd movement Romanza.
6. Trumpet Voluntary by John Stanley (trumpet and organ).
7. Ennio Morricone The Ecstasy of Gold. (Morricone orchestra)
8. Kathleen Ferrier Blow the Wind Southerly (unaccompanied)

As we are probably unfamiliar with Albinoni, John Stanley and Morricone, here are short biographies and then some background to the folk song “ Blow the Wind Southerly” and its famous alto singer Kathleen Ferrier



**TOMASO ALBINONI (1671-1751):** An Italian composer of operas, concerti and sonatas. Born in Venice to wealthy parents he studied the violin and singing. Unusually, he was not attached to any Church or Court so wrote independently. We are to hear the concerto he wrote for two oboes. He was the first Italian to write concerti for the oboe. The famous Adagio in G minor piece is attributed to him, but this is only partially true as a later 20<sup>th</sup>-century musicologist, Remo Giazotto, adapted it from an earlier bass line written by Albinoni. The composer's output was enormous including over 50 operas but much of his output has been lost



**JOHN STANLEY (1712-1786):** Born in London – better known as an organist rather than a composer. A domestic accident at age 2 left him virtually blind but did not seem to have affected his musicology. He started playing the organ at age 7 and was the youngest to obtain a Bachelor of Music at age 17. He was a contemporary and friend of Handel. We are to hear one of several trumpet voluntaries that he wrote.



**ENNIO MORRICONE (1928-2020):** Italian music composer, orchestrator, conductor, trumpeter and pianist. Versed in jazz, he wrote in a multitude of styles composing 100 classical pieces but is better known for music he wrote for film and TV. Margaret has chosen the Ecstasy of Gold which was written for the film “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” The hero is frantically looking for gold in a cemetery – it is one of the most iconic pieces of film music ever written



**BLOW THE WIND SOUTHERLY:** This is a Northumbrian folk song – words first published in 1834 where the heroine prays for a southerly wind to enable her lover to cross the sea to join her. In her day Kathleen Ferrier was as well known as Gracie Fields or Vera Lynn. She had a unique and quite extraordinary voice. A true contralto, rich and radiant tones with almost a manly voice. She had no upper musical training but was a proficient pianist at a young age. She left school at 14 to become a telephonist Sang in the bath and only entered a singing competition as a dare with her husband. She won first prize and immediately signed a recording contract and briefly became famous as an opera singer. Her life was cut short by cancer in 1953 aged just 41.

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Before listening to the 8 tapes, it may be helpful to know more about “nocturnes”, “serenades” and “trumpet voluntaries

**NOCTURNE:** Usually a one-movement piece written for piano in free form It is usually very melodic, “dreamy” or romantic, not difficult to listen to, not unusual in harmonic structure, and often quite slow and tranquil but not gloomy. Florid but not virtuosic. It reflects the feelings of nighttime. John Field, (1782 -1837) an Irish composer, was the first to name them under a specific title and they were popularized by Chopin who had met Field The nocturne we are to hear played was composed by Chopin when he was only in his twenties (between 1830-1832). It is cool, detached, crisp and clear. The beautiful melody in the right hand is accompanied by soft broken chords in the left hand. Chopin insisted when his students practised that they started playing the left hand only. This is the only piece by Chopin that has been continuously in the Classic Hall of Fame since its inception in 1996. It is as well known or even better known than Beethoven’s Fur Elise. Chopin composed 21 nocturnes in all, five of which were published posthumously.

**SERENADES:** A serenade is a composition or suite written in honour of someone or something. It is usually a calm or light piece of music. The term originally referred to a nocturnal song of courtship. We are to hear the first of seven movements of Mozart's Serenade No. 10. The tempo starts largo but quickly gathers pace.

**TRUMPET VOLUNTARY:** Conceived originally not for the trumpet but for the organ using the trumpet stop. Used in both celebratory and/or solemn occasions the melodies are both majestic and simplistic. This piece although not as famous as the Prince of Denmark's March composed by Jeremiah Clarke circa 1700 will be instantly recognized.

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### **Looking ahead to June**

The June Music Appreciation Group will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June and we will be following Jenny's suggestion for composers or soloists whose name begins with the letter S.

This is a chance for you to get your thinking caps on. Your suggestions please by emailing Ken at [kp1917@btinternet.com](mailto:kp1917@btinternet.com) Bonus points for anyone making suggestions which combine a war theme to coincide with the D-Day landings.

### **Looking forward to July**

We have had several requests for music from films and TV. Lots of choice here so we will need your input on this as well. Classic FM has made this a very successful theme with Jonathan Ross presenting his selection on a Friday and Saturday evening.