

## The imminent release of *The Jubilee*, and the latest on *Fête Galante*!

*In this Newsletter, we report on the imminent release of Dibdin's **The Jubilee**, progress on the recording of Smyth's **Fête Galante**, and share information on potential future projects.*

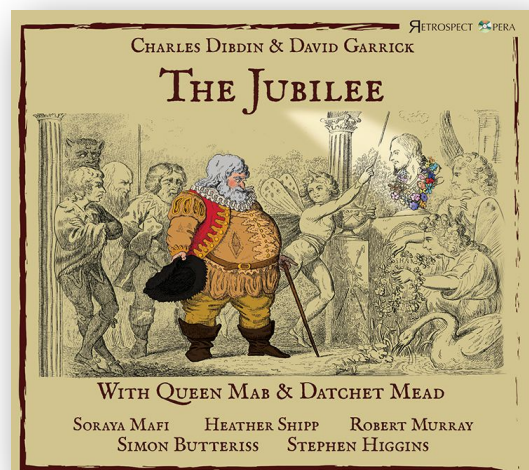
### Release of Dibdin's *The Jubilee*

Our second disc of Charles Dibdin's music, *The Jubilee*, is in the middle of going to press. We have accepted the proofs, and we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the CDs. The release date for subscribers will be **24 May**, and the official release date will be **31 May** – not long now!

Eagle-eyed readers may notice that we had originally planned to call this disc *Shakespeare's Garland*. This was the title David Garrick gave his collection of songs, composed by Dibdin, that were published to accompany the great Shakespeare 'Jubilee' in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1769. This had seemed an attractive umbrella title for the three works on our recording, but eventually we decided that it was potentially misleading, and we opted instead simply for *The Jubilee*, as you can see in the reproduction of the album cover. The only remaining problem was to make sure that people did know it's all about a certain Willy Shakespeare, so there will be a sticker on the outside of the packaging announcing 'A 18th-Century Celebration of Shakespeare'.

Just to remind you, the compilation comprises three of Dibdin's Shakespearean

works, *Queen Mab* and the songs in *The Jubilee* being written for the Stratford event, and the later *Datchet Mead* finding its inspiration in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. David's booklet essay is designed to help you enjoy the music in two different ways, both following the original order of musical events in Stratford, and in narrative form as the songs were repurposed in Garrick's immensely successful musical comedy, *The Jubilee*, the main work we present.



The album features soloists **Simon Butteriss**, **Robert Murray**, **Heather Shipp**, and **Soraya Mafi**, with **Stephen Higgins** at the piano and members of the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment**.

The disc is dedicated to Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, who were married in Windsor a year ago. A big thank you to the 168 wonderful supporters whose donations have made this recording possible.

Don't forget that if you introduce a new supporter who donates £50 or more to Retrospect Opera, you can claim a free copy of any of our single-CD releases!

### Progress on Smyth's *Fête Galante*

We have recently received the first edits of Ethel Smyth's *Fête Galante*, which we recorded last November at St Mary's Church, Walthamstow, East London. It's sounding great!

To complement this wonderful work, we are now turning our attentions to the companion piece for the recording, which will be Liza Lehmann's melodrama *The Happy Prince*, based on the Oscar Wilde story of the same name. The artist we are most keen to engage for this is highly sought-after, and we have only just been able to schedule rehearsals, let alone a recording date, though we hope for some time in early August.

We don't want to let the cat out of the bag – but if all goes to plan, it will be a small-scale recording, which will mean that sadly we won't be able to accommodate any visitors on this occasion as there just won't be room.

Our disc will also include **Adrian Boult's historical recordings** of excerpts from Smyth's final two operas: *Fête Galante* and *Entente Cordiale*.

We won't be able to release the CD until September at the earliest – but it will definitely be worth the wait!

### Past Newsletters

Should you wish to take another look at past Newsletters, you can now do so via our website at the following link:  
[www.retrospectopera.org.uk/Newsletters.html](http://www.retrospectopera.org.uk/Newsletters.html)

For the benefit of subscribers who aren't on e-mail, we can also send out Newsletters to UK addresses by post.

### And finally...

We have enjoyed a fantastic first five years, with a total of six releases, and we're now in the happy position of considering what we will record next. There are many factors to consider but we are giving serious thought to various small, medium, and large projects. The large ones are obviously more difficult to fund, but we do feel, and we're sure that you will too, that it's important to do them.

Here are a few of our current ideas:

- Loder, *The Night Dancers* (1846)
- Barnett, *The Mountain Sylph* (1834)
- Stanford, *Shamus O'Brien* (1896)
- Lehmann, *The Vicar of Wakefield* (1906)
- Bantock, *The Seal Woman* (1924)
- Lampe, *The Dragon of Wantley* (1737)
- Macfarren, *The Soldier's Legacy* (1864)

Do write and tell us what you'd like to hear!

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Thanks, as ever, from the team  
at Retrospect Opera:

David, Valerie, Andy and Chris