



Imminent recording of *Raymond and Agnes*!

In this Newsletter, we give a round-up of the three CDs we're currently working on...

Raymond and Agnes, our biggest project so far!

It's taken us a long time to get to this point but it's incredibly exciting to think that this opera – last heard in its entirety in 1859 – is at last about to be recorded. It was performed in Cambridge in 1966, but the libretto was thought lost, and the story was re-worked to make something coherent. It received superb reviews, and this was all down to the tenacity of Nicholas Temperley, who found the vocal score in the first place, and who has been so supportive of what we're doing ever since. Nicholas is one of our Patrons.

But we are extremely sad to report that Sally Silver, who was to have sung Agnes, has had to withdraw, owing to ill-health. Sally has been a significant factor in helping the project get to where it has, and it's devastating that she's not able to sing in something she has such a keen interest in.

We are, however, very fortunate that Majella Cullagh has agreed to sing in her place. Majella has sung all over the world, specialising in Italian opera, and Valerie met her in Dublin in 2008, at the recording of Balfe's *Falstaff* (in Valerie's edition), when Majella sang the rôle of Mrs Ford. It'll be a treat to work with her again.

We are recording from Monday-Thursday, 16-19 October, at St Jude-on-the-Hill,

Hampstead, London. Anyone who is a Loder Angel, Friend or Life Member is entitled to attend and will be very welcome. This means that if you want to upgrade your donation, now is the time! If you're not sure what your level is at the moment, please get in touch – either email, or write to the address at the foot of the page.



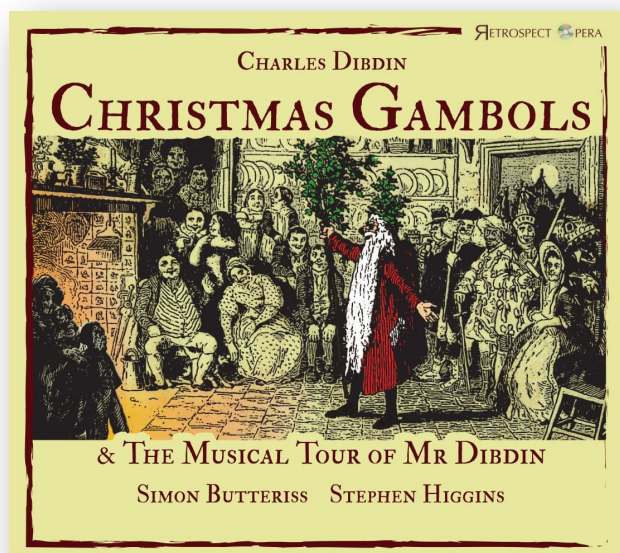
Majella Cullagh

Anyone who comes (and it's vital you tell Valerie if you plan to, so you can get all the details) will be asked to sit some way from the orchestra, so as not to be distracting to players or singers, but you'll be able to see Richard Bonyngé at work, and it will be a really interesting occasion. We have 7 sessions, one on the Monday, and two on each of the other three days.

And the October edition of the glossy magazine *Cheshire Life* has a wonderful 3-page spread about us and the opera – premièred in Manchester in 1855 – with pictures of Andy, Valerie and also Andrew Greenan, who's singing the wicked Baron. It should be available online in a month's time.

Christmas Gambols

We are very pleased to share that our recording of *Christmas Gambols* is in the final stages of editing, and almost ready to be sent to press. The disc will be on the shelves very soon now! David has worked hard to find some very beautiful images to use for the booklet and packaging; here is the cover...



The CD cover for *Christmas Gambols*

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!

The Wreckers

All our efforts have been going on *Christmas Gambols* and *Raymond and Agnes*, so the re-release of Ethel Smyth's *The Wreckers* is taking a bit longer to finalise. We also were keen to put it into the same packaging format that we've used so far, but had a problem because the original CD booklet is 68 pages long, which is more than our current format will allow. But we've found a way round that, and we're getting on with the rest of the artwork. The re-release will include everything that was in the original

release, with the addition of an essay by Chris, which brings us up to date with what's happened Smyth-wise in the past 25 years or so (the recording was made in 1994).



CD cover of the re-release of *The Wreckers*

More reviews of *Pickwick*

The Dickensian writes of 'the ever-expressive Simon Butteriss', 'the elegant piano and musical direction of Stephen Higgins' and says 'the performers sing with clarity of diction' in 'this humorous recording'. We're very pleased!

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<http://www.retrospectopera.org.uk/Donate.html>

Our CDs may be purchased here (you may have to copy and paste the URL in two parts):

http://www.retrospectopera.org.uk/CD_Sales.html



With thanks, as always, from the team at Retrospect Opera:

David, Valerie, Andy and Chris