

# RETROSPECT OPERA

Edward Loder *Raymond and Agnes*

[www.retrospectopera.org.uk](http://www.retrospectopera.org.uk)

Newsletter #2, December 2015

## Season's Greetings from all of us at Retrospect Opera!

We've had a very good year at Retrospect Opera and we're extremely grateful to you for making it so.

**At the end of our first year "in business",** we've received donations from over 150 individuals, obtained grants from 5 organisations, become a Registered Charity and made our first recording, Ethel Smyth's *The Boatswain's Mate*!

We're also in the process of registering with CAF, the Charities Aid Foundation, which some people have asked about. And we've greatly improved our website! Do visit it again soon if you haven't done so recently: [www.retrospectopera.org.uk](http://www.retrospectopera.org.uk).

**We're very excited about  
the year ahead!**

It will see the release of *The Boatswain's Mate* and, if all goes well, the recording of *Raymond and Agnes*. We are a charity and we do rely on your continuing support. If you have friends and colleagues likely to be interested in what we are doing, please do encourage them to become supporters too. Or if you know of other sources of funding for projects like this, please let us know!

In October, there was a major event, in Bath (UK), to celebrate the Loder family of musicians. The chief event from our point of view was that in the main concert on Friday October 16th, extracts from *Raymond and Agnes* were performed, with the Bath Philharmonia, with Donna Lennard as Agnes, John Colyn Gyaentey as Raymond, and Joe Corbett as the Baron, with all three taking minor rôles occasionally. John and Joe had stepped in at the last minute, because the others had been unable to perform (having been called in by Covent Garden).



*Setting up for the rehearsal*

Two narrators – dressed in Victorian costume – told the story. It went down very well with the audience.

It was a wonderful opportunity to hear the music – extracts from the opera were last heard in broadcasts in 1967 and 1995, and in a landmark performance in Cambridge in 1966. The previous performance was in the 19th century, so this really was a very significant event.



*Joe Corbett, Colyn Gyaentey, and Donna Lennard*

Two people should be acknowledged – Professor Nicholas Temperley for his vision and work in bringing the Cambridge production to fruition (and his encouragement ever since), and Andrew Clarke, for his extraordinary energy in organising the Loder Celebration.



*Jason Thornton (conductor) talking to Ben Vleminckx (Orchestral Manager) and Simone Homes (General Manager of the Bath Philharmonia)*

## **We have put some very short excerpts from the concert on the website!**

They are not studio quality by any means, and the acoustics at the Assembly Rooms are not ideal for a recording! but nevertheless we think they give you a very good idea of what the music is like – warm, rich, and dramatic. Click on ‘Listening Rooms’.



*Horn players Richard Wainwright and Matthew Cooke*

### **Smyth: *The Boatswain’s Mate***

We thought you’d also like to know that we’re making excellent progress on this opera – the first we’ve recorded. It’s being edited, and we’re working on the various production aspects. We’re very happy to receive donations towards the remaining costs.

#### **We’ve made a difficult decision about publicity for the release of *The Boatswain’s Mate***

We could employ a marketing agent, but **marketing agents are expensive and we’ve decided that it’s not the best use of our donors’ money to spend it in that way.** So we are going to publicise the recording ourselves. If anyone on this list has marketing experience, or a connection with reviewing **publications, we’d really, really welcome your help and advice!** But anyone who uses social media can help us. We’re sure you’ll love the recording, and it would be wonderful if you can recommend it to all your connections.



*The rehearsal in full swing*



But that's for the future. For now, we are just very grateful for all you've already done for us, and we wish you an exceptionally Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year!

The team at Retrospect Opera:

Andy, David and Valerie



*David Mackenzie (clarinet),  
Martin Gatt, Lois Au (bassoons),  
Katie Hodges, Matthew Wells (trumpets)*



Remember, a donation of £250 makes you a Retrospect Friend, entitling you to a copy of every future CD we produce. And £150 entitles you to attend some of the recording sessions.

And if you're UK tax payer, your donation is now eligible for Gift Aid, which makes it worth 25% more, at no extra cost to you! Please download the Gift Aid form from the website.

For more information, visit our website at [www.retrospectopera.org.uk/](http://www.retrospectopera.org.uk/),  
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