

We've released *Pickwick*!

Pickwick and Cups and Saucers
is available for sale!

We're delighted to announce that our recording of *Pickwick* and *Cups and Saucers* is now out! We've sent copies to our Patrons, Life Members, Friends and all our other subscribers – if you're expecting to receive one and haven't had it within about a fortnight, please get in touch.

It's available through our website, by post (address below), and also via Amazon UK. It's priced at £8.95, post free in the UK (through Amazon, it's £9.95 plus postage).

We've slightly re-vamped our sales page, at www.retrospectopera.org.uk/CD_Sales.html – do take a look! And we're aware that, for convenience, some people prefer to buy through Amazon, and the *Pickwick* link there is www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B06X1DY3W1, though you should be able to find it if you search for "Pickwick" and "Butteriss". Please remember that it's Amazon UK – to make it available through the other European Amazon sites would cost a great deal of money, which we think would be better spent on funding projects directly.

If you know of any journals – especially in the US – that would be interested in knowing about the CD, please give us details.

The CD was officially launched on 24 February at the Wordsworth Winter School in the beautiful setting of Rydal Hall in the Lake District. It was a great success – almost everyone at the Winter School had supported *Pickwick*, having signed up at last year's Winter School, and it was a great pleasure to meet them all.

The event began with a reading of the passage from Dickens' *Pickwick Papers* about the misunderstood marriage proposal – it was read superbly by John Rowe; the audience was rapt (when not chuckling), and very appreciative. David said how pleasing it was that so many *Pickwick* subscribers were able to be there, and spoke a little about the recording; and Valerie expanded on how Retrospect Opera began, what we were trying to achieve and what we all do. She also made the point that these things are expensive to do if they are to be done properly – and that this is where all our subscribers come in. In that sense, you are all part of Retrospect Opera.



The Pickwick launch event at Rydal Hall: Andy King, Valerie Langfield and David Chandler, proudly holding copies of the new release

We've just heard some very good news about *The Boatswain's Mate*. Many of you will know the weekly (Saturday morning) programme *Record Review*, broadcast on BBC Radio 3, starting at 9am. Within it is a strand "Building a Library", and on 4 March, International Women's Day, they're doing a major piece on the music of Ethel Smyth and what's available in recordings. Ours will be included! The publicity is just what we want, and really endorses all we're trying to do: to enable rare, but good repertoire to be heard. It should be available for catch-up listening for a month. You can see the whole playlist here:

<http://www.for3.org/forums/showthread.php?16683-BaL-4-03-17-Dame-Ethel-Smyth>

It's very exciting to see our label so visible.

We've also had an email from Lars Erik Andrenius, of Swedish Radio, who tells us that 20 minutes from Part 2 of *The Boatswain's Mate* will be broadcast on 21 March. The programme link is

<http://sverigesradio.se/sida/avsnitt?programid=2480> (that's all one link, no spaces) which is a bit of a mouthful but does work. Apart from bringing Dame Ethel's music to a wider audience, the airtime also brings us in royalties, which all help fund future projects. So it is really useful if you can encourage, cajole or request your radio station of choice to play tracks from our CDs.

What will also help is if you can leave a customer review on Amazon, for either *Boatswain's Mate* or *Pickwick*. You don't need to have bought a copy through Amazon.

Now that *Pickwick* has been released, don't forget that anyone who introduces a new Sponsor who donates at least £50 will receive a free *Pickwick* CD as a thank-you for your continued support!

Also, a quick reminder that donations to any of our current projects may be made here:

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

In "other news", the recording dates have been set for *Raymond and Agnes*: 16–19 October 2017. There will be seven recording sessions in total – one on the Monday, and two on every other day, all from 11am-2pm and 3-6pm (this gives the singers' voices a chance to warm up). We may record dialogue in the evenings, or on a separate occasion. If you'd like to attend any of the recording sessions, you have to be a Loder Angel or higher (that is, a minimum donation of £150, and it doesn't have to be donated all in one go).

February is LGBT History Month here in the UK, and our recording of *The Boatswain's Mate* has attracted quite some attention! Smyth was one of the figures celebrated in 2014's LGBT History Month, for which the theme was Music, so she is well known to them already. An article about Retrospect Opera appeared on their website just a couple of weeks ago:

<http://lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/retrospect-opera-seeks-funding-for-recording-more-of-dame-ethel-smyths-works/>

It's been a great month for us in terms of interest in our work! The Britain-Australia Society wrote a fantastic piece on Richard Bonyngé and our forthcoming recording of *Raymond and Agnes*:

<http://britain-australia.org.uk/news/2017/02/richard-bonyngé-recording-of-raymond-and-agnes/>.

Finally, fundraising is continuing to go well for *Fête Galante* and *Raymond and Agnes*, and Valerie is still hard at work on the new edition!



*With thanks from the team
at Retrospect Opera:*

David, Valerie, Andy and Chris