

## “The Diaries of Adam and Eve”

On Saturday 26th June 2010 “The Diaries of Adam and Eve” will be performed at the QEH Theatre, Jacobs Wells Road, Clifton, Bristol at 7.30pm. It is a piece for two actors, chorus and orchestra.

*The Diaries of Adam and Eve* was written by Eric Wetherell in 2000, after hearing a reading of Mark Twain’s *The Diary of Eve* on radio. The composer subsequently discovered a companion piece, *The Diary of Adam*, and he felt the two stories could be combined to create a narrative that examined, as Mark Twain saw it, the initial meeting of the sexes.

The Mark Twain passages are wonderfully witty and warm and the composer set this as spoken dialogue, although Adam and Eve never address each other - their twin perspectives on their growing relationship are confided only to the audience. The narrative is linked by a series of 11 poems written by Elizabeth Major. These act as a mixture of a Greek chorus, commenting on the action, and arias that explore the succession of emotions experienced by the first humans.

At first Adam sees Eve as an intrusion into his perfect world and resents her presence. Tempted by the snake, she eats the forbidden fruit. This brings Death into the world. Animals that once played peacefully together fall to destroying each other and now the first humans feel an inexplicable need to cover their bodies with skins. Adam find Eve with a strange new creature on his return from trapping. He thinks it could be a bear or a fish. They call it Cain. Only now does he notice her beauty, for the first children have been merely a response to a biological urge but their last words are Eve’s “I have found him and am content” and Adam’s “Wherever she was, *there* was Eden.”

The piece was performed in June 2000 at St Mary Redcliffe Church in Bristol. John Telfer took the part of Adam and Bonnie Hurren played Eve. We are delighted that both John and Bonnie are back with us to play these parts at this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first performance.

It seems particularly appropriate to perform this piece again as this is the centenary of Mark Twain’s death. He died on 21 April 1910.

The concert also includes Eric Wetherell’s *Concerto for Alto Saxophone and String Orchestra* and Delius’ *On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring*. The alto soloist is the renowned local saxophonist Ben Waghorn. Ben plays soprano, alto, tenor and baritone saxophone, Bb flat and bass clarinet, flute and alto flute. As well as theatre work and teaching, Ben has had a busy recording career playing for TV, film and radio. He has been involved in a wide range of projects, including a piece written by Keith Tippett for two saxophone quartets and the BBC singers. Ben has toured and recorded with Latin jazz group ‘Sirius B’ and has been involved with productions at Bristol Old Vic. He has played at Jazz Festivals nationally and internationally and he also composes for his own jazz quartet.

For tickets please contact the Box Office on 0117 907 8079

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