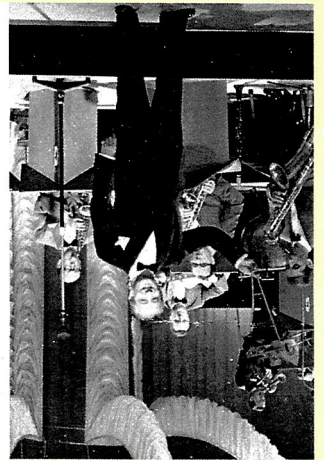
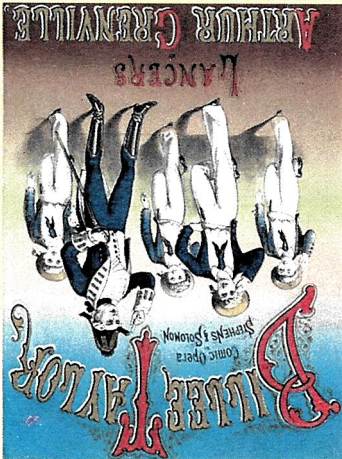


22 JANUARY 2020

SONGS UNEARTHED: MUSIC FROM WILLESDEN JEWISH CEMETERY



PIECES

“L’Cha Hashem Hagedola” by Marcus Hast
“Shomeir Yisroel” by Samuel Alman

London Cantorial Singers with Robert Brody, tenor

Cantor Marcus Hast (1840-1911) and Choirmaster Samuel Alman (1877-1947) are just a few of the dozens of religious officials buried at Willesden Cemetery. Together they represent the music of Hebrew prayer. East European-born Hast and Alman had the singing in major congregations in London and arranged liturgical songs for daily and festival use. Their body of work continues to influence the musical tone of traditional United Synagogue services. ‘L’Cha Hashem Hagedola’ (Yours Oh Lord the Great) is chanted on sabbaths and festivals when the Torah scrolls are processed around the synagogue. ‘Shomeir Yisroel’ (Guardian of Israel) expresses God’s guardianship of Israel and that the people of Israel are a unique, holy, but depleted nation.

“Consider Yourself” from “Oliver!” by Lionel Bart
Choir of St. Paul’s Girls’ School

The sounds of the London of Charles Dickens would have been familiar to many of those buried in Willesden, which opened in 1873. Sir John Woolf (1913-1999) was the producer of the 1969 Academy Award-winning film version of the hit musical *Oliver!* Based on the early Dickens novel *Oliver Twist*, which famously featured Fagin, a caricature Jewish figure, *Oliver!* won five Oscars. Woolf’s father C.M. Woolf was a legend of 1920s British cinema. John and his brother James founded twin companies Romulus Films and Remus Films, which had a string of other hits including *The African Queen*, *The Day of the Jackal* and *Room at the Top*.

“A Guileless Orphan” from “Billie Taylor” by Edward Solomon

Emma Ellis, soprano, with Leyla Cemiloglu, piano

Edward Solomon (1855-1895), a self-taught musician, wrote many comic operas for the London stage in styles recognisable from his contemporaries W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. Their plots often reflected his own dramatic personal life – married three times, he was accused of bigamy and ran into debt. His headstone at Willesden Cemetery is topped with a lyre, the symbol of a musician. “A Guileless Orphan” was written to be performed by Lillian, one of Solomon’s wives, and its lyrics detailing strong-mindedness ironically foreshadow their divorce after she discovered his previous marriage.

“Vesti la giubba” from “Pagliacci” by Ruggero Leoncavallo, sung in English

Ben Thapa, tenor, with Leyla Cemiloglu, piano

“Vesti la giubba”, or “On with the Motley”, was first sung in English at London’s Royal Opera House by Philip Brozel (1868-1927). His character, the tenor Canio, has just heard of his wife’s infidelity but must still go back on stage and play the clown. Brozel was born in Russia. He became an acclaimed operatic tenor and fellow of the Royal Academy of Music with lead roles on both sides of the Atlantic. He performed in operas by the 19th century German composer Richard Wagner including at his Bayreuth Festival Theatre. There was occasional criticism of the quality of Brozel’s voice but no recordings exist for us to judge.

“Sister Susie’s Sewing Shirts for Soldiers” by Herman Darewski

Ben Thapa, tenor, with Leyla Cemiloglu, piano

King of Light song Herman Darewski (1883-1947) and his brother Max are buried at Willesden Cemetery. As children of a cantor in

Minsk, Russia, the boys were regarded as prodigies: they had conducted and composed for orchestras before reaching their teens. Sadly, Max died at 35. Herman had a long and productive career, variously publishing music, organising large-scale dances, running the Blackpool Winter Gardens and inventing musical strip cartoons. He was one of the biggest composers for British light orchestras with more than 3,000 popular songs to his name, including the World War One morale-boosters "K-K-K-Katy" and the tongue-twister "Sister Susie's Sewing Shirts for Soldiers".

INTERVAL 20 Minutes

"Wassail Song" by Jane Joseph

Choir of St Paul's Girls' School

Jane Joseph (1894-1929) is one of England's greatest overlooked female composers. Her short life was dedicated to music: she was a composer, arranger, conductor, teacher and assistant at St. Paul's Girls' School to its Head of Music Gustav Holst. Her father George Solomon Joseph, from an establishment Anglo-Jewish family, encouraged his children to learn instruments; Jane's included double bass, horn, percussion and piano. The influence of Holst and fellow contemporary Ralph Vaughan Williams can be heard in her music. Although many of Jane's works went unpublished, her "Wassail Song" is one of the few that survives.

"Rocket Man" by Elton John

Students of Guildhall School of Music and Drama

The connection to Willesden of this 1972 hit single (and 2019 movie biopic) is through agent Dick James (1920-1986). Dick was son of a Spitalfields kosher butcher who scored several of his own top 20 hits as a young singer and songwriter. Once he had his own record company he started to represent and publish new pop groups; his

most famous clients were the Beatles and Elton John. With Brian Epstein, the Beatles's manager, he formed the successful and lucrative partnership Northern Songs. His company Dick James Music did much to shape the British pop scene.

“Whispering Grass” by Doris and Fred Fisher, as performed by Gerald

Students of Guildhall School of Music and Drama

“Whispering Grass” was one of the “Tip Top Tunes” of one of Britain's best-loved American-style swing bands. It put a full string section alongside a dance band. Gerald Bright (1904-1974), known as “Gerald”, was a tailor's son who set up a dance orchestra so popular it earned him the title “Tango King of England”. The orchestra was based at London's Savoy Hotel and could regularly be heard on radio and recordings. Gerald was of the most celebrated Jewish radio band leaders, playing with jazz soloists including Duke Ellington and Stan Tracey, and conducting his orchestra on Cunard ocean liners.

“Can-Can” from “Orpheus in the Underworld” by Jacques Offenbach

Leyla Cemiloglu, piano

Willisden's burials include impresarios, managers and theatre or cinema owners. For a short spell property magnate and philanthropist Charles Clore (1904-1979) owned the Prince of Wales Theatre. After World War Two he established an empire that included Selfridges and the Hilton Hotel in Park Lane as well as the British Shoe Corporation, owner of the Dolcis and Lilley and Skinner shops. He is said to have been the first British businessman to launch a hostile takeover. In the early 1930s he re-styled the Prince of Wales Theatre into a venue for extravaganzas modelled on the Paris Folies Bergères.

PERFORMERS

Graham Goldman

Songwriter, musician and founder member of 10cc Graham

Goldman.

London Cantorial Singers

The choir will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year. It

entertains audiences in the UK and abroad with a blend of Jewish,

Liturgical, Yiddish and Israeli contemporary pieces.

Choristers: Nigel Bender, Bernard Black, Henry Black, Ben Camissar,

Julian Charles, David Druce, Gary Fine, Selwyn Foreman, John Fox,

Alan Freedman, David Goldman, Daniel Hirschfeld, Anthony

Kaiser, Melvyn Miller, Barry Moss, David Prager, Russell Shaw, David

Silkoff, Philip Spiers, Allen Sternstein, Allan Winthrop.

Robert Brody

Robert Brody ARCM, LRAM, has performed as soloist in London's

leading venues, and on international radio and television.

He has visited Theresienstadt to record Music of the Ghetto for BBC

TV and Romania to perform with their Philharmonic choir. He was

recently honoured to conduct Services in the St Petersburg Great

Choral Synagogue.

Choir of St Paul's Girls' School

As one of the UK's leading independent day schools, St Paul's Girls'

School in London is a thriving community. Music still plays a

central and much valued role in the cultural life of the school.

Pupils from the school are regularly represented at the highest

levels in the National Youth Orchestra, the London Schools'

Symphony Orchestra, the National Children's Orchestra and the

National Youth Choir of Great Britain. Cantamus, the choir

performing today, is an auditioned group of girls from year 8-10 and

aged between 12-15 years old.

Emma Ellis

Emma sings with many London choirs and has recently performed as a soloist in Faure's "Requiem" and a radio broadcast of Stanford's "Magnificat in G." She also has a passion for opera and has sung in Mozart's "Magic Flute" and played Musetta and Adele in scenes from "La Boheme" and "Die Fledermaus."

Leyla Cemiloglu

Leyla Cemiloglu is in her final year of study with Joan Havill at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, performing regularly across the UK and abroad as a soloist and chamber musician. She was a prizewinner at Oxford Music Festival 2019, and Highly Commended in the Guildhall School's Romantic Prize 2018.

Ben Thapa

Ben Thapa (tenor) made his break as one quarter of the group G4. He appeared as a soloist for the Royal Opera, Scottish Opera, Garsington Opera, Buxton Festival and the Teatru Manoel Malta, and recent and upcoming concert work includes the CBSO at Birmingham Symphony Hall, concerts at St Martin in the Fields, Rochester Cathedral and around the UK and beyond.

Students from Guildhall School of Music and Drama

A selection of musicians all currently studying Jazz performance at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.
Performers: Cody Moss (piano), Sol Grimshaw (guitar), Matt May (bass guitar), Annol Mohara (drums), Liam Talbot (vocals).

PRODUCTION TEAM AND CREDITS

Thanks to everyone involved in putting on this evening's event.

For Brent Museum and Archives

Ruth Britt

Jana Cameron

Camilla Churchill

Kieran Marriott

David O'Neill

For House of Life at Willlesden Cemetery

Hester Abrams

Corinne Van Colle

Emma Ellis

Lyn Leader-Cramer

Jason Lowe

Vicky Proctor

Emma Weleminsky-Smith

and back stage and front of house volunteers

pic credits:
 East Riding of
 Yorkshire
 Museums Service
 University of
 Huddersfield
 Archives at
 Heritage Quay:
 British Dance
 Band Collection
 St. Paul's Girls
 School Archive

Visit The House of Life Exhibition at The Library at

Willlesden Green. Free Entry.

Open daily until 16 February 2020.



Brent
 Museum & Archives



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HOUSE OF LIFE



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