

## ***PIRATES OF PENZANCE*** A2 Group, Thursday 17th - Saturday 19th March

The Victorians loved a sense of duty, and this musical is subtitled "A Slave to Duty". Our hero is Frederic, a young man just finishing his apprenticeship as a pirate (It should have been a pilot but Ruth, his nursemaid, was hard of hearing). Frederic cannot abide the thought of piracy but following his conscience he has been a loyal and dutiful apprentice. Today he is 21 and his apprenticeship is over. He is to leave the pirates and then he can return to bring them to justice! He has never seen a young lady, just his nursemaid Ruth, so he falls in love with the first pretty face he meets, Mabel, who is the daughter, (amongst many) of Major-General Stanley. The Pirates seize the daughters and plan to marry them, but they relent because the Major-General pleads he is an orphan and pirates always release orphans. Frederic and Mabel leave the pirate band hoping to wed. However, just as Frederic is to lead a force of reluctant police to capture the pirates he learns that he was born on the 29th February and is thus only five years old!

A paradox! He has to rejoin the pirates to finish his apprenticeship. Being a slave of duty he confesses that a punitive task force is on its way, worse, the Major-General is not an orphan. The ever-faithful Mabel decides to lead the police (with lots of "Tarantula's") but they are all captured by the pirates because they have cat-like tread. The police implore the pirates to yield in the name of Queen Victoria. Pirates too, are slaves of duty so naturally they relent.

Much relieved the Major-General gives up his daughters to the pirates (the daughters are delighted!). This is doubly fortunate for the girls because the pirates are really all nobles of the realm who have 'gone wrong'. So it all works out rather well and they all take each others hearts at the end.

Tickets are available from the Box Office, 15a High Street, Westerham, TN16 1RA, either by telephone (01959 561811), post or personal collection. After the 28<sup>th</sup> February tickets will be available from Ibbett Mosely (01883 712241), Oxted.

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## ***FOBS***

Well, that was Christmas and we hope you all enjoyed it. FOBS members and helpers were very busy until the Christmas Cracker on 11 December was over, and then we took a break, apart from stocking up goodies for consumption during the pantomime. As I write, however, they have had to put their toys away and prepare to resume Front of House duties for the 'Gospel Music Night' of 22 January and The Barn Sinfonietta on 29 January.

We then await the Southern Counties Drama Festival (formerly the Betchworth) which although reduced in entries, will still give us work to do.

I say us, in fact, having an injured wing since October I have been little more than an innocent bystander. Heather Lloyd, Sheila Bennett and their teams have managed it all without me - amazing! Lucky I trained them well! There is more to come, with no less than three shows in March, such a busy Barn it is.

We have been generous with your money again as, apart from earlier purchases, we rounded off the year with another donation of £2500 to the Barn funds.

Friends will be pleased to learn that John Sturgeon, our former Vice Chairman and Fund Raiser, is now recuperating at home, following various sojourns in hospital, including a quadruple bypass.

Our membership stands at 253 but the door is not closed!

Finally, an early warning of our AGM which will be held at The Barn on Monday 7 March at 7.30pm, so make a note in your diary and come and join us.

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## ***"Tippett" and Friends*** ***A Centenary Tribute"***

The Barn Sinfonietta of Oxted, Johan Michael Katz, Music Director, and Rachael Maher, Leader, wish to thank the Surrey County Council (through its Arts Support Scheme), Tandridge District Council, The Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust and MDA/Schott Music for support of our concert of the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2005.

Sir Michael Tippett was born in London in 1905 and lived in Oxted for over 20 years. Teaching at Hazelwood School and conducting concerts for The Oxted and Limpsfield Choral Society, he earned just enough to enable himself to spend long periods at composition. He chose to live here and built a cottage in Limpsfield because of the easy access to London. In April 1930 he made his public debut as a composer at The Barn Theatre.

In the short space of our concert in The Barn Theatre we tried to illustrate some of the musical associations that made him the creative genius that he was.

Programme:

Purcell - Excerpts from *The Fairy Queen*  
Corelli - Concerto Grosso Op. 6 No. 2  
Holst - St Paul's Suite  
Vaughan Williams - Fantasia on Greensleeves  
- Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus  
Britten - Simple Symphony  
Tippett - Little Music for Strings



Next Concerts

### ***"THE SINFONIETTA GOES BRASS"***

Music specifically written for the brass section of the modern symphony orchestra from Gabrielli to Copland including works by Dukas, de Lassus, Rautavaara, Tomasi and Ward.

5<sup>th</sup> March '05 at 7:30pm in the Oxted United Reformed Church

12<sup>th</sup> March '05 at 7:30pm in Christchurch, Coldharbour, Surrey

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## ***Kenley Holiday Workshop***

Following last year's highly acclaimed production of 'Anything Goes', Kenley Holiday Workshop, that exuberant and talented group of youngsters, will be returning for their tenth year at the Barn from 10 - 13 August with their production of 'Me and My Girl'. But you don't have to wait until August to see them because they are staging an extra production this year. 'The Boyfriend' (which, incidentally, was the first production they put on at the Barn) is being staged on 2 - 3 April at Hazelwood School for two nights only. If you would like tickets please telephone 020 8660 4400. This time the rehearsal period is less than a week but no doubt it will be up to their usual high standard.