

The Shires Suite has been written for the Leicestershire Schools Senior Orchestra over the past few years: Prologue and Epilogue 1965; Interlude 1969; Interlude I and Cantata 1970. The members of the orchestra (which changes annually as the older members leave school) playing on the same instruments as professionals use, can produce an astonishing virtuosity. School choirs of the same age group, on the other hand, cannot produce a comparable quality of sound as they have not the necessary adult chest resonance. The singing in *The Shires Suite* was therefore always intended to be reasonably easy, and based on well-known canons. The orchestra was put clearly first.

The Cantata is a setting of three canons, before each of which the choir sings "Come let us give you a song in Canon". First, a hunting canon by Byrd to the words:

Hey ho! to the Greenwood
Now let us go,
Sing heave and ho,
And there shall we find
Both buck and doe.
Sing heave and ho,
The hart and hind
And the little pretty roe.
Sing heave and ho.

Second, a drinking catch by Purcell to the words:

'Fie, nay prithee, John
Do not quarrel man,
Let's be merry and drink about
What's in the bottle for all you are so stout.'

Third, a canon by William Blake, presented to me on my 60th birthday. The words are:

The wind is a wild song,
The rain is a wild field:
The sun is a wild fire,
The moon is a wild child.

M.T.

The Cantata (for piano) is only to be played when the Cantata is performed by the choir (the piano part is only to be played when the Cantata is performed by the choir).

The singing horns are single note instruments which sound at the pitch written. With the use of megaphones, i.e. loud-hailers, the effect is momentarily also visual. The same goes for fig. 2 where the pop-pop can be done with the finger in the cheek (or actual corks and bottles), and the clinks with real drinking glasses. The *ff* crash can be metal trays of cutlery dropped. The loud laughter must continue *ff* and suddenly cease.

Cantata

MICHAEL TIPPETT

1 *Allegro non troppo* (♩ = 120)

Bongos
Castanets

Jazz kit
Side Drum
Wood block
Cymbal

Piano
Reduction

2 *(mf)*

3 *(mf)*

4 *f con form*

S.
Comm.
f

A.
Comm.
f

5 *f*

6 *f*

7 *f*

8 *f*

9 *f*

10 *f*

11 *f*

12 *f*

13 *f*

14 *f*

15 *f*

16 *f*

17 *f*

18 *f*

19 *f*

20 *f*

21 *f*

22 *f*

23 *f*

24 *f*

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940 *f*

941 *f*

942 *f*

943 *f*

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945 *f*

946 *f*

947 *f*

4

you a song in ca-non.

you a song

you a song in ca-non.

you a song in non.

PREVIEW Low Resolution

Forte *meno mosso* (♩ = 112)

W. b. s. Whip

clip etc. clip clip etc. clipper clip etc. clipper clipper

p *mf*

5

6

(Hns.)

mf

clip clap etc. clipper clap etc. clipper clopper etc.

7

(mf)
(In the style of hunting horns)

8 *f* fresh and gay

Hey ho, to the green wood now let us go, Sing heave and

Women

f fresh and gay

Hey ho, to the green wood now let us go, Sing heave and

f fresh and gay

Hey ho, to the green wood now let us go, Sing heave and

f fresh and gay

Hey ho, to the green wood now let us go, Sing heave and

f fresh and gay

Hey ho, to the green wood now let us go, Sing heave and

9

10

ho, and there shall we find both buck and doe, sing heave —
 go, sing heave — and ho, and there shall we find both buck
 green - wood now let us go, sing heave — and
 ho, and there shall we find both buck
 go, sing heave — and ho, and there shall we find both buck
 green - wood now let us go, sing heave — and

10

and ho, and there shall we find both buck and doe, sing heave —
 go, sing heave — and ho, and there shall we find both buck
 green - wood now let us go, sing heave — and

11

and ho, and there shall we find both buck and doe, sing heave —
 go, sing heave — and ho, and there shall we find both buck
 green - wood now let us go, sing heave — and
 ho, and there shall we find both buck and doe, sing heave —
 go, sing heave — and ho, and there shall we find both buck
 green - wood now let us go, sing heave — and

12

there shall we find both buck and doe, sing heave — and ho,
 there shall we find both buck and doe, sing heave — and ho,
 there shall we find both buck and doe, sing heave — and ho,
 there shall we find both buck and doe, sing heave — and ho,

13

Tamb.
Jingles

14

15

16

W. bts.
Whip

15

17

17

there shall we find both buck and doe, Sing heave and ho,
 and ho, and there shall we find both buck and doe, Sing
 let us go, Sing heave and ho, and there shall we find
 there shall we find both buck and doe, Sing heave
 and ho, and there shall we find both buck and doe, Sing
 let us go, Sing heave and ho, there shall we find

(Hns.) *f*
(= choir)

hart and hind and the pretty lit - tle - roe, Sing heave and
 ho, the hart and hind and the pretty lit - tle
 both buck and doe, Sing heave and ho, the hart and
 hart and hind and the pretty lit - tle roe, Sing heave and
 heave and ho, the hart and hind and the pretty lit - tle
 both buck and doe, Sing heave and ho, the hart and

10

ho. Hey ho, to the green - wood

roe, Sing heave and ho. Hey ho!

hind and the pretty lit - tle roe, Sing heave

ho. Hey ho, green - wood

roe, Sing heave and Hey ho!

hind and the pretty lit - tle roe, Sing heave and ho!

11

Calling into the distance

Hey! Hoo-ee! hoo - ee! hoo-ee! hoo - ee!

12

19