

REDBRIDGE MUSIC SOCIETY

'THE HISTORY, POETRY AND MUSIC OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR'

**Tuesday 10th June 2014 8 pm
Lambourne Room, Redbridge Town Hall**



Presenters

Chris Brant - History of the Great War

Ian Patience - Music at the time of WWI

Rodney Williams - Poetry of WWI

Clive Miller - Trumpet

TONIGHT'S PRESENTERS

Chris Brant (History of the Great War)

Chris graduated in History at Queens' College Cambridge and after subsequent teaching posts at Reigate Grammar School and Radley College he was appointed Head of History at Forest School, Snaresbrook. He has a special interest in the history of the First World War, and in particular Field-Marshal Douglas Haig.

Ian Patience (Music at the time of WWI)

Ian has been a member of Redbridge Music Society for well over 20 years and has served on the Committee as Deputy-Secretary for over 15 years. He has a wide knowledge of music of all genres and is especially interested in the Great British Music Hall – in particular the old Ilford Hippodrome. Tonight Ian will introduce songs popular at the time of WWI.

Rodney Williams (WWI Poetry and letters sent during the War)

Rodney was a chorister in King's College Choir, Cambridge, under Dr Boris Ord and had the honour of being chosen as the opening treble soloist for the King's College Carol Service the first time it was televised and on the first LP recording that King's College made. He studied at the Royal College of Music during which time he gained an ARCM on the organ. He has sung in many choirs including the BBC Singers and the choir of the Chapel Royal at the Tower of London. For well over 20 years has sung as lay-vicar in the choir of Westminster Abbey and has taken part in all the State occasions, recordings and broadcasts including Royal Weddings, Memorial Services and the Queen's Silver Wedding Service.

Clive Miller (Trumpeter: Reveille and Last Post)

Clive was born and educated in Ilford, Essex, and studied trumpet with the Redbridge Music Service under John Ridgeon. He became a Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music whilst still at school and played principal trumpet with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. Clive has worked as a science teacher, a computer analyst and more recently as a garden designer. He currently plays with the Aurelian Ensemble, Redbridge Brass and Opera Novella, and teaches brass for the London Boroughs of Redbridge and Havering. He lives in Wanstead with his wife and two daughters.

PROGRAMME

The First World War, sparked by an assassination in the Balkans and ignited to become the most large-scale brutal war that had ever been known, inspired - for cathartic, political, moral and many other reasons - great and significant works of literature, art and music. Tonight Redbridge Music Society presents an evening of the history, music and poetry of the First World War as part of its contribution to London Borough of Redbridge's current commemoration of the WWI centenary.

Clive Miller - 'Reveille' (solo trumpet)

History perspectives of WWI

Local teacher and historian Chris Brant will discuss the "rights and wrongs" of Britain taking part in the war. He will portray the soldiers' experiences of the war as seen through the letters they sent home and will bring original copies of these along to tonight's event. He will also offer a reappraisal of the roles played by the WWI Generals, paying particular attention to Field-Marshal Douglas Haig.

Music popular at the time of WWI

By comparison with other arts form, there was a relatively small but nevertheless significant, musical response to WWI in terms of "classical" music and popular song in Europe and America. Ian Patience will focus on some of the songs popular with civilians and soldiers at the time and will introduce and present some of the original recordings of John McCormack, Richard Tauber, Marie Lloyd and others

WWI Poetry and personal perspectives from 'forgotten voices'

Rodney Williams will read out extracts from original letters that provide a number of perspectives on the war from the points of view of conscientious objectors, children (both English and German) and soldiers 'at the Front'. He will also read some poems about the desolation and futility of the war.

Clive Miller - The Last Post (solo trumpet)

This will be followed by a short period of reflective silence

ITEMS PRESENTED THIS EVENING

POEMS

Corporal Stare - by Robert Graves

The Soldier - by Rupert Brooke

In Flanders Fields - by John McCrae

READINGS – from ‘Forgotten Voices of the Great War’ (by Max Arthur)

1. Howard Marten ‘Conscientious Objector’
2. Harry Patch Cornwall’s Light Infantry
3. Corporal Clifford Lane 1st Battalion, Hertfordshire Regiment
4. Heinrich Beutow German schoolboy
5. Elizabeth Owen English schoolgirl
6. Sgt-Major Richard Tobin Hood Battalion, Royal Naval Division

POPULAR MUSIC

1. ‘Keep the Home Fires Burning’ – John McCormack
2. ‘It’s a long way to Tipperary’ - American Quartet
3. ‘Over there’ – Enrico Caruso 2’46”
4. ‘Roses of Picardy’ - Richard Tauber
5. ‘If you were the only girl in the world’ – George Robey
6. ‘Pack up your troubles... - Murray Johnson
7. ‘Now you’ve got your khaki on’ – Marie Lloyd