

March 1, 2 and 4

SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY OPERA

in

Savitri

by Gustav Holst

and

Apollo and Daphne

by George Frederic Handel

English version by Roger Warren

Conductor RODERICK PATON

Director ROGER WARREN

Costume Designer RAYMOND ALEXANDER

Set Designer STANLEY RIXON

These performances are
given with financial
assistance from the Arts
Council of Great Britain.

Holst, Handel, and the Natural World

Though Holst based his opera on the Hindu concept of 'Maya'—that the actual world in which we live is an illusion until it is incorporated, seen in terms of, an individual person—'Savitri' is not coldly intellectual, but shot through with lyrical warmth and beauty. Against the world of insubstantial illusions—'Maya who reigns where men dream they are living'—Holst sets Savitri's love, her wholehearted involvement with her husband: 'If Satyavan die . . . Then I were but a dream.' It is this interpretation of life that enables her finally to out-argue and defeat Death, who is himself the ultimate example of the world of Maya. If men depend upon the 'real' world, then, inevitably, they are a prey to Death: but Savitri's life depends, not on that world, but on her love for her husband.

Since the simple power of this emotion does not depend specifically on Hindu ideas, we have avoided superficial 'Hindu' designs, providing instead a severely stylised set which enables the conflict between the world of illusions and Savitri's love to be reflected in the shifting quality of both setting and lighting. For Handel's 'Apollo and Daphne,' however, a different design scheme had to be found. As in 'Savitri,' the world of Nature looms large—but in a very different way. While Holst uses his references to the wood—underlined by a mysterious female chorus which sings offstage—to suggest the insubstantial nature of things, Handel's sensuous, illustrative word-painting evokes roses and stars and laurels to establish their beauty, their reality, their desirableness, as strands in Apollo's wooing of Daphne.

The story of the nymph Daphne, whom Diana turned into a laurel to save her from Apollo's advances, has been set by Handel against such larger perspectives as the transience of the beauties of Nature, one of the oldest topics in the world for an incentive to love. Handel's evocation of the fading rose has nothing abstract about it, though, nothing like Holst's attitude to the natural world; rather, the imagery of nature is vividly conveyed by instrumental obbligato passages for violin, cello or oboe. So our designs aim at a golden splendour, a concrete combination of the pastoral and the courtly, which will echo the lyrical loveliness of Handel's word-painting, and also contrast sharply with the natural world of 'Savitri.'

ROGER WARREN

Savitri

Savitri, Satyavan's wife	JANET EDMUNDS
Travellers	RUTH WOOD RAYMOND ADAMS
Death	PETER REYNOLDS
Satyavan, a woodcutter	RUPERT DONOVAN

Off-stage voices

Sopranos

Linda Parker
Julie Kennard
Mary Wagner
Pamela Hawes
Janet Hendra
Elspeth Walker
Helen Banham
Gill Roberts

Altos

Katie Avey
Finola Healy
Josephine Dege
Mary England
Pauline Newton
Alison Cameron
Hermia Colman
Jill Roberts

The opera takes place in a wood

Apollo and Daphne

Apollo, god of the sunPETER REYNOLDS

Gentlemen attending ApolloRAYMOND ADAMS
BRIAN HAZEL

Daphne, a nymph serving DianaSUSAN BURCHELL

Ladies attending DaphneFINOLA HEALY
LINDA PARKER

Apollo, having freed Greece from terror
by killing a Python, encounters one of the
nymphs who serve his sister, Diana/Cynthia.

There will be one interval of 20 minutes
between the operas when the fully-licensed
Theatre Bar will be open.

Coffee, soft drinks, chocolates and ice cream
also available.

ORCHESTRA : Savitri

Violins

Sydney Doige
Mary Sanderson
Jennie Sharman
Colin Wilkins

Violas

Brian Masters
Trevor Morgan

Cello

Stanley Borland
Frances Zagni

Contra bass

Peter Watsham

Flutes

Alexandra Newman
John Palmer

English Horn

David Montague

ORCHESTRA : Apollo and Daphne

Violins I

Sydney Doige (leader)
Jennie Sharman
Edward Burns
Harold Kempf

Violins II

Mary Sanderson
Colin Wilkins
Graham Wells
Karen Coventry

Violas

Brian Masters
Trevor Morgan
Robert Hanson

Cellos

Stanley Borland
Frances Zagni
Anthea Carter

Contra bass

Peter Watsham

Flute

Alexandra Newman

Oboes

David Montague
Tony Trotter

Bassoon

Graham Sheen

Harpsichord Continuo

Neil Bowman

For 'Savitri' and 'Apollo and Daphne'

Stage Manager	Peter Graham
Lighting	Derek Jones
Sets painted by	Stanley Rixon
Sets built by	G. L. S. Batty
	Frank D. Browne
Wardrobe Mistress	Isabel Beattie
Photographs	Paul Trezise
Wigs	Wig Creations

The Director wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Bryan Jenner in preparing the English version.

The Arts Festival Committee would like to express its gratitude to the following for their generous patronage of the 1968 Arts Festival :

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Chief Electrician	Derek Jones

In accordance with the requirements of the licensing authority :

- 1 The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors.
- 2 All gangways, corridors, staircases, and passageways which afford a means of exit shall be kept entirely free from obstruction.
- 3 Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways except in positions authorised by the licensing authority and in the numbers indicated in the notices exhibited in those positions.
- 4 The safety curtain shall be lowered and raised at each performance in the presence of the audience.

The management reserves the right to refuse admission, also to make any alteration in the cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable causes.

THE TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE THEATRE IS FORBIDDEN

SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY ARTS FESTIVAL continues until 20 March with a wide range of events including :

DRAMA : "The Public Prosecutor" University Theatre Group
"Twelfth Night" Prospect Productions,
"No Man's Land" of London

MUSIC : Concerts by Ensemble of the Centre de Musique
of Paris ; The Music Group of London ;
The Delme String Quartet

ALSO : The Liverpool Poets ; Poetry ; Folk ;
Poetry and Jazz in concert ; The Graham
Collier Dozen giving the premiere performance
of the first Extended Jazz Work to be
commissioned by the Arts Council of
Great Britain.

Full details (Festival Diaries) now available in the foyer or by
sending s.a.e. to the Publicity Manager, Arts Festival, Students Union
Southampton University (Tel. 56291 Ext. 39)

18 March for one week

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