

(DRAFT)

COMPANY AT THE MANOR.

An Anthology for a Summer Night's Entertainment

presented

on the

NORMAN MOTTE at ABINGER MANOR.

MUSIC Vaughan Williams "Folk Song Suite" for Military Band.

PROLOGUE.

Host and Hostess walk on to the Motte with Son and/or Daughter, Niece, or visiting girl

4 men

They greet their visitors

4 women

Man and wife about their own age, Tall elderly Spinster friend, Young man - possibly American or Canadian

After greetings the Motte is introduced - how and when it came to be - nearness to Hastings etc - Spring and earlier settlement - Abinger and Domesday Book, Camden and his 'duck pond' and some indication of the various theme's of the pageant scenes to follow, but all (I hope) in a light conversational way. Avoiding all dates and details.

These to be given in a Programme Note with - I think both desirable and justified - due acknowledgement to Sir Edward Beddington-Behrens.

Characters of the Prologue move off towards the house and a

NARRATOR TAKES Up the story.

MUSIC - V.W. "Greensleaves"

Saxons appear by the Moat - all very leisurely.

7 men or less

Normans are seen approaching, agitation and excitement
Saxons run off.

? women

? children

Normans enter, at least two mounted Knights - or Knight & Squire, with at least four men-at-arms.

6 men

2 horses

They ride to the top of the mount and erect palisade.
One or two Saxons can be pressed into service for this

The Palisade is hardly up when there is a shout off of "Ware Senlac Arrows" and a flight of arrows whiz through the trees on to the mound and palisade. Another flight follows.

Saxons attempt to storm the Motte. Normans charge from the top and the Saxons are driven off. Some prisoners etc.

EPISODE 1 (Cont'd)

Norman women arrive - on horse-back or walking - but only one or two - ~~not~~ as many as the Norman men to indicate that the two races intermarried and became one.

The scene ends as it began - quiet and pastoral.

NARRATOR --- The first Crusade instigated by Pope -?- , - and why

EPISODE 11. The Crusades. Music -?- 1 Monk

I do not know of any record that any member of the local families at this time went to the Crusades but I remember reading that Richard 1. on his way to the 1st Crusade, passed through or near the village.

A Crusader Knight could arrive - with Monk who reads the proclamation of the Pope and calls for - or requisitions recruits from among the company assembled.

Ceremony of the Red Cross etc - farewells from their womenfolk who watch their departure.

EPISODE 11 -XIVth - XVth Century

Folk Song - "Summer is A-coming in" or "The Lark in the Morning"

Sheep, Shepherds - Shepherdesses. 3-4 lads
3 girls

NARRATOR :- 'Canterbury Pilgrim's - Prologue to Canterbury Tales'
Introduction - description (shortened) of various pilgrims.
Knight - Squire - Yeoman - Friar - Prioress - Nun - 4 men
Wife Of Bath - others if desired. 3 women

The pilgrims enter, each on their 'narration' are welcomed Hostess
- or sometimes not - by hostess. They are given refreshment Villagers
- make purchases. - perhaps water their horses at moat -
eventually ride - or walk off - to Pilgrim Hymn.

Shepherd and shepherdesses dance together on the top of Motte

Music - "Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day" -

Two Young Knights ride past.

NARRATOR:- --- The De la Hale family at Oakwood Hill @ Alan de la Hale and
"Robin & Marion" - the Troubadors.

The two young Knights ride up to the top of the mound -
Shepherds run off - two of the girls are abducted - not too
unwillingly.

When shepherds re-appear, the third girl rounds on them and sends
them after the knights and girls. She - seeing a third knight

EPISODE 111 (Cont'd)

approaching, prepares to be abducted, but he rides past to her obvious disgust.

2 Young
Men
1 older.

Hawking party.

Archery Practice.

Other Characters enter (Fair Costumes) and the scene takes on the suggestion of a 15th Century Tapestry.

?

Troubadour Song " L'Amour de Moy"

NARRATOR: More Wars.- Laurence Oliver "Crispin Day" Speech,"Henry V".

Archers recruited - more farewells.

EPISODE 1V

NARRATOR:- 1959 - Coronation of Elizabeth 1 - etc.

Shepherds and Shepherdesses - now in Tudor Costume.

Household and retainers gradually assemble - group and sing a Madrigal.

3 women

3 men

Parish priest enters with visitor who brings news of the Armada. also copy of Elizabeth's Tilbury Speech which the Lady of the Manor reads aloud.

Villagers

The stage grows darker. The people watch anxiously. Looking towards the west. Suddenly they suggest that they see a distant bon-fire and signal. - News of victory.

Fanfare of Trumpets. Torches appear. Headed by Lady and Priest company move off in a torch lit procession towards church to V.W. Coronation setting of "Old Hundredth Psalm"

End of Part 1. - INTERVAL.

PART 11.

EPISODE V. Early 17th Century.

May Day Scene. Maypole is set up on top of Mound.

Girl, the May Queen, Young Cavalier, Innkeeper, Boys and Girls.

May day revels - dancing round the Maypole.

Puritans suddenly appear and interrupt the revels.

The Maypole is thrown down. Protests from Lads. One is caught and the Puritans try to drag him away. Young Cavalier draws his sword.

EPISODE v. (Cont'd)

Roundhead Soldiers appear. Fight. Young man escapes.
Puritan Scene ?.

Then great rejoicing - villagers rush on to welcome back
'Cavalier' family including young man.

Company prepare to receive John Evelyn. - Dr Gerey etc.

Scene ends with some commemoration of Purcell - Born 1659.

EPISODE VI. 18th Century. Countryside and Abinger 'discovered'
Literary inhabitants and visitors.

A series of little scenes suggesting the contemporary
vogue for 'Conversation Piece' pictures.

Commemorating death of Handel - 1759.

EPISODE VII.

Victorian Party of some sort.

Shepherdesses have now become Maidservants at Manor
Black dresses, caps, aprons.

The 'Morland' cottage children of previous scene
now rather quaint perhaps but hardly picturesque.
"All things bright and beautiful" (?)

but the scene can end with the villagers singing
"God Bless the Master of this House".

EPISODE VIII. - 1914.

Two Young Couples.

- 1939

Air Raid shelter - Cave dwelling again.

EPISODE IX People of Prologue return. "How sweetly sleeps the
Moonlight on this Bank.

V.W. "Sereade to Music" Behind the modern young
couple appear couples from previous scenes - in
white or grey costumes. Knight in silver armour &
girl in white on white horses ride on to top of
moat. All fade off as music ends.

FINALE.

All Company on for repeat of the V.W. "Old Hundredth Psalm" and so ending
on a Fanfare.

" COMPANY AT THE MANOR."

Costumes required if as Draft. Most Bodies can appear in more than one scene if necessary.

EPISODE 1. NORMAN.

Saxon. 9 men - 4 villains 5 serfs.

Women and children as appropriate families.

Normans 2 Knights Full Armour - Horses.

4 Men-at-Arms. Can have chain mail shirts only with leggings cross gartered.

3 - 4 women. possibly mounted.

EPISODE 11.

Crusader Knight can be Norman with different Tabard and shield.

Monk.

EPISODE 11.

Canterbury Pilgrims: 4 Men. 3 Women.

3 Shepherds - young.

3 Shepherdesses. "

2 Young Knights. (One could be the Squire of the C.P.)

1 Older (Could be Knight of C.P.)

3 Horses.

Hostess

Villagers - about 12 or so.

1 Troubadour - or could be one of the young Knights.

Hawking party - 1 - 2 - 3 - or more mounted.

Archers ?

Ladies and Gentlemen from Fair (?)

EPISODE 11.

3 Shepherdesses

1 Lady - good costume

2 lesser - or sewing women

2 or 3 well dressed gents

Servants, villagers, men and boys for torches. (20)

Parson.

Horseman messenger.

EPISODE V. 17th Century - Stuart.

Maypole Dancers - ?

Girl

Young Cavalier.

3 - 4 Puritans Men.

2 Roundhead Soldiers.

2 or three Women Puritans.

2 men

2 women } - good Stuart costumes

JOHN EVELYN. & RECTOR.

EPISODE VI.

2 men. 2. women 4 children. 'Morland costumes'

3 men good 18th Century Costumes

3 women. " " " "

Horses. Dogs.

Dairy Maids and Farm Workers (?)

EPISODE VII.

Schoolmistress

4 - 5 children - or as above.

Family - Father, Mother, Children.

2 Maidservants.

Farm servants or villagers (8 - 10) or less.

EPISODE VIII

2 young men

2 " women.

EPISODE IX

3 -4. Could be all women.

EPISODE X

Young man and girl from Prologue.

" "

"

Victorian

"

"

18th century

"

"

17th "

"

"

Elizabethan

"

"

15th Century

"

"

Norman mounted.