The Lennox Berkeley Society

Berkeley Day at Merton College, Oxford

To celebrate Berkeley's four years as an undergraduate at Merton (1922–6), and to mark the 30th anniversary of his death, Benjamin Nicholas (Director of Music at the College), Petroc Trelawny (President, LBS), and Julian Berkeley have arranged the following programme for

Saturday 2nd March 2019


1415 – 1500 Public Lecture, T. S. Eliot Theatre. Lady Selina Hastings, biographer of Nancy Mitford, Evelyn Waugh and Somerset Maugham, will talk about Lennox Berkeley and his Oxford contemporaries during the Brideshead years.

1500 – 1525 Tea (Courtesy of Merton College), Foyer, T. S. Eliot Theatre. Then walk from Eliot Theatre to Merton College Chapel through Fellows' Garden.

1530 – 1600 Organ Recital on the new Dobson organ, Merton College Chapel. LBS member Iain Simcock (formerly organist of Westminster Cathedral and Director of L’Académie vocale de Paris) will play Three Pieces for Organ by Berkeley; and Benjamin Nicholas (Reed Rubin Organist at Merton) will play 'Improvisation' from Three Pieces for Organ by Berkeley's teacher, Nadia Boulanger. This will lead without a break into:

1600 – 1710 Choral Evensong, Merton College Chapel. Music by Berkeley (Canticles: Chichester Service, and Anthem: The Lord is My Shepherd), Stravinsky (Introit: Ave Maria, and Motet: Pater noster) and Matthew Martin (Responses), with a short address by Tony Scotland, author of Lennox & Freda and Flèche: Brief Encounter with Stravinsky. The Organ Voluntary will be the 'Finale' from L'oiseau de feu by Stravinsky.

To allow travel time to Oxford, the event will start at 1.30 pm, so please be sure to have an early lunch. And please note that a) parking in Oxford, even on a Saturday, is not advised – better to take the Park-and-Ride bus shuttle or travel by train or Oxford Tube, and b) visitors should go straight to the T. S. Eliot Theatre, 1 Rose Lane (behind the Merton Fellows' Garden), and not to the College (where a degree ceremony will be taking place). The theatre is at the bottom of Rose Lane on the right, and Rose Lane is off High Street opposite Magdalen College.

Entrance free to all

(Please note that the advertised Song Recital with baritone Ashley Riches and pianist Sholto Kynoch has been postponed, and will take place, we hope, as part of the Oxford Lieder Festival in 2020.)