

**"OF STRANGER LANDS"**

At The Blue Door

6th May

8th May

10th May

11th May

12th May, 1946

# The South Australian Ballet & Arts Club

presents

## "OF STRANGER LANDS"

### Producers' Note:

The object of this programme is to catch for a few moments, through the medium of song, drama, dance, and mime, the atmosphere of fourteen different countries. We have not confined ourselves to any one period, but have roamed through the centuries choosing small pieces of varying moods which seemed to us to portray the essential feeling of these several peoples and their lands.

P.H. & J.P.

### 1. OF THE UNKNOWN

THE CLOAK - - - - - Clifford Bax

This little play, by one of our modern writers, is set in a pass which bridges the two worlds of earth and heaven. Here the unborn spirit meets with the newly-dead. A watchful angel points out the several paths that may be taken, but the final decision is left to the spirits themselves.

### 2. OF ENGLAND

THE KING'S BREAKFAST - - - Music by H. Brewster-Jones

Here you have a modern puppet piece. The puppet's movements are directed to synchronise with the singing of this amusing and very typical English lyric.

GREENSLEEVES - - - - - Words and Music Traditional

This charming old ballad of early Tudor origin shows us that ladies could be as fickle, heartless, and gold-digging as some of their sisters of this more sophisticated era.

### 3. OF JAPAN

THE LADY OF ISHYAMA - - - - - 14th Century No Play

The No is the classic legendary drama of Japan. In presenting this lovely little piece intelligibly to a western audience we have necessarily departed from the traditional method of production. The Buddhist Monk travelling on a pious journey to Ishyama is intercepted by the ragged, aged spirit of the once mighty and lovely poetess, Lady Murasaki. She is condemned in the spirit world to be humbled for her arrogance. She asks for prayers for her spirit's liberation. While the monk is praying for her release, she reappears before him in all her former beauty and triumph, and he understands how hard is the battle for her spirit to attain complete humility. However, his prayers are heard, and when she returns in her aged misery she invokes the Holy Buddha and her spirit departs into the Trackless Way.

#### 4. OF THE HOLY LAND

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT - - - - - By Thornton Wilder

Here we have reverence and humour, a satisfying combination rarely come by.

#### 5. OF AUSTRALIA

BLACK SWANS

This is a legend of a now unhappily extinct Aboriginal tribe of South-Western Australia who believed that the spirits of the dead entered, for a certain time, into the bodies of the black swans. Once a year, when the swans flew inland to the sacred river, one would sing the song of life, then die. The spirit of the dead would then be released forever.

#### 6. OF FAERY

BALLET - - - - - Music by Greig

Three fairies are discovered by a lonely prince. He dances enthralled with them, but, being fairies, they elude and vanish and leave him as before, a lonely prince.

#### 7. OF ROMANY

PALE EYES

An incident showing the gipsy's deep distrust of all those who have light coloured eyes.

#### 8. OF FRANCE

THE AWAKENING OF THE MAID - - - - - Music by Debussy

Jeanne day-dreaming in the fields hears for the first time the angel voices which commanded her destiny and that of France.

THE GIDDY GIRL - - - - - Music by Ibert

Here was a time when La Parisienne was perhaps more provocative and saucy than ever before or since.

INTERVAL.

#### 10. OF SPAIN

FULL CIRCLE - - - - - Vincent Godefroy

A temperamental moment in Avila.

#### 11. OF ARABIA

THE LAMENT OF TUMADIR AL-KHANSA FOR HER BROTHER  
1001 Nights

This poignant, little lament, taken from the 13th Century manuscript, shows how disastrous to the tribe was the loss of a capable young warrior king.

## 12. OF SCOTLAND

EDWARD, EDWARD - - - - Traditional Ballad

MAY COLLIN - - - - Traditional Ballad

A fourteenth century strip-tease act.

## 13. OF CHINA

A SONG OF A GUITAR - - - - By Po Chu-Yi

Po Chu-Yi, a poet of the eighth century, was one of the great poets of the T'ang dynasty, the golden age of Chinese poetry. It is said that no poet of the world can ever have enjoyed greater contemporary popularity than Po. This poem was written while the poet was in temporary banishment at Kiu-Kiang for some political error in judgment.

## 14. OF ITALY

MY LAST DUCHESS - - - - By Robert Browning

A casual cruelty in the ducal history of Ferrara.

### CARNIVAL

The old well-loved commedia dell'arte figures enact once again their gay and piquante story.

The players throughout are:—

#### Women

Maxine Aldrich  
Pamela Dickens  
Patricia Hackett  
Enid Lewis  
Joanne Priest  
Stella Sobels  
Iris Thomas  
Lynette Tuck  
Helen Western

#### Men

Tom Brown  
Oscar H. Cox  
Allan Dunstan  
Stanley Hunkin  
Noel Williams

Production by Patricia Hackett and Joanne Priest.

The introductory and incidental music throughout the programme is chosen, arranged, and played by Jean Bethune Cook.

The musical accompaniment to the two solo dances and the ballet played by Vivien Tuck.

The choreography of the two solo dances in the ballet is by two students, Helen Western and Lynette Tuck.

Décor by Allan Sierp.

Stage management by Margaret Sneyd and Shylie Niell.

House management by Lisbeth Cornell.

Subscriptions may be paid to the house attendant.

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