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THE FOOD OF LOVE

A CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF THE PENZANCE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

Margaret Williams

Penzance is a small town in Cornwall lying within the curve of Mount's Bay and only a few miles from Land's End. It was here, in 1906, that the Penzance Orchestral Society was born, brought to life by a group of young but enthusiastic amateur musicians. Walter Barnes emerged as their conductor at their first public performance in April 1907. This small body of players developed into a full symphony orchestra over the years and is now celebrating its 100th Anniversary.

With only five conductors during its centenary of existence the Penzance Orchestral Society's story is a fascinating one featuring a huge cast of characters. There have been many musical adventures along the way: two world wars to be endured, first ever UK performances of rare or unusual works, famous soloists, operatic opportunities created, collaboration with local artists, helping to establish the internationally famous Minack Theatre and much more.

This impressive volume chronicles the first hundred years of the Penzance Orchestral Society. It will be of great interest to all those who have an association with the Society, to those interested in the history of Penzance and to anyone who cherishes the musical and artistic heritage of Cornwall; Newlyn artists such as Stanhope Forbes and Frank Heath appear in its pages.

Read and discover the life of an amateur orchestra with its highs and lows, its joys and sadnesses and the secrets of its success over ten decades of music-making in Penzance.

Margaret Williams, née Angove, was born and brought up in St. Levan parish and attended Penzance Grammar School. After working as a librarian in Cornwall and Surrey she completed a degree in history at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Since 1976 Margaret has lived in mid Wales, maintaining close ties with her native Cornwall. Her uncle, Morgan Hosking, conductor of the Penzance Orchestral Society from 1946–1981, inspired her in this attempt to record the Society's history. It has been an on-going but intermittent project for over twenty years, but since 2003 she has devoted herself single-mindedly to its writing. It has been both a privilege and a pleasure she says; the only difficulty has been to ensure that she reached the end of the orchestra's hundred year history before they did!



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John Morgan Hosking, circa 1946.



Enid Barnes at the piano in St John's Hall, 1934.



Inia Te Wiata, bass soloist, May 1957, in Maori costume.



Penzance Orchestral Society in their centenary season, November 2006. Simon Cook



Example of a double page spread.



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