

MARK FITZ-GERALD CONCERT AT THE BRITISH HOME - 25TH FEBRUARY



On the 25th February, light music enthusiasts were in for a treat as it was time for the annual feast of our sort of music given by Mark Fitz-Gerald and his orchestra as a way of raising funds for the 'British Home' in Streatham, London.

Apart from the conductor and leader, most of the musicians are amateurs, but their standard of playing is amazing!

The orchestra opened with Jack Strachey's vaudeville march **Theatreland**, which they have adopted as their signature tune. It was followed by Charles Williams' **Devils Galop**, which to the older generation will always be associated with 'Dick Barton' on the radio! We then listened to '**Apache Life**' - a movement from Haydn Wood's Paris Suite. Bassoonist Eloise Carpenter was then featured in **Alte Brumbar** (The Gumpy Old Bear) by Fucik. Percy Grainger's **Country Gardens** was followed by **Dance Characteristique** from Sir Landon Ronald's Suite de Ballet. We then listened to Nino Roto's film theme **The Legend of the Glass Mountain** and a real light music favourite, **The Boulevardier** by Frederic Curzon. Next we heard Leslie Bridgewater's **Prunella**, which those of us of a certain age will remember as the accompaniment to the vintage BBC Interlude depicting a kitten playing with a ball of wool! John Bratton was the composer of the next item - **Teddy Bears' Picnic**. A late Eric Coates composition came next - **The Unknown Singer**. I suspect that it was also unknown to most of the audience! Next followed **Adele's Laughing Song** from Strauss's 'Die Fledermaus', and Edward German's '**Merrymakers' Dance** from 'Nell Gwynn'. We then turned to Coleridge-Taylor for his composition **Demand et Reponse** from the 'Petite Suite de Concert'. The final item on the programme was **Montmartre** - another movement from Haydn Wood's 'Paris Suite'. By way of an encore the orchestra finished in fine style with Robert Farnon's **Jumping Bean**. A good time was had by all, and we look forward to next year's concert.

Brian Reynolds - © March 2018