

Notes and Queries

MUSIC REVIVAL IN PIETERMARITZBURG

In 1997 Christopher Duigan started a project known as 'Music Revival'. It was his intention, for which he received tremendous support, to convey his love of classical music to a wide audience. In his attempt to reach out to young people he has also presented to schools a number of appealing programmes which he has enhanced with interesting commentary about the music.

To appreciate fully what Duigan is doing, however, it is also necessary to reflect on some of the milestones of the past which have helped shape the musical history of Pietermaritzburg. Music has always been an integral part of the cultural life of the city. Research has shown that the early manifestations of music-making came from the Zulu-speaking people who lived in the area and whose music was mainly vocal. Numerous songs depicted the social life, customs, rituals, historical and religious aspects of their lives.

Following on this was the influence of religious music which emanated from the early churches and particularly from the missionaries who introduced hymn singing as well as other works of a religious character. Further aspects of Western music came in by way of the early settlers and gradually secular as well as church music dominated the musical scene in Pietermaritzburg.

From an early date, there were many interesting public performances. In 1864 Handel's *Messiah* was first performed in St Peter's church. Mrs Visick played the small organ and her eleven children played various instruments which fleshed out the orchestral score and acted as accompaniment to the thirty voices singing the vocal parts. The *Messiah* then became an annual event, with many voices singing to the accompaniment of a full orchestra and the City Hall organ.



Christopher Duigan



Soprano Angela Gilbert

This great organ was installed in the new City Hall (rebuilt after the devastating fire of 1898) in 1901. The official ceremony opening the restored building was performed by the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (later to become King George V and Queen Mary). It was a splendid musical occasion. The Municipal Orchestra and a choir of 250 voices, directed by Mr A.H. Day, who was also the organist, performed Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, the *Coronation Hymn*, and the National Anthem.

In addition to playing at official gatherings, the regimental bands of the British garrison gave many public performances, succeeded in the course of time by the band of the Natal Carbineers. Famous overseas artists also came to Pietermaritzburg to give public concerts. In the early 20th

century, Dame Amelita Galli-Curci, Erna Sack, and Richard Tauber (amongst others) performed in the city, so that even young scholars were able to hear them.

In 1881, the Pietermaritzburg Philharmonic Society was formed, and a series of resident conductors was appointed. Under their guidance many excellent concerts were arranged, with the orchestra augmented at times by the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra. The society had its Philharmonic Choir, which continued to be active. A second major choir is that of the Pietermaritzburg Choral Society under the direction of Mr Joshua Radebe, and the city has many church choirs and other singing groups.

The year 1997 brought a sad change, however. The Transitional Local Council withdrew the grant hitherto paid to the Philharmonic Society, and without this subsidy the Society could not survive. Financial constraints also compelled the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra to discontinue its visits to Pietermaritzburg, and there was a dearth of live serious music in the city.

It was at this time that Christopher Duigan, acting in conjunction with Gilly and Taffy Walters, introduced the project known as 'Music Revival'. With great vision and imagination, Duigan presented a series of varied soirée-style concerts, which awakened public interest. The first of these took place in October 1997 and since then the project has flourished. Well before the end of 2001 alone, more than sixty well-attended performances have been given. Some have been at public venues, but for the most part the venues are the private homes of Briar Ghyll in Montgomery Drive or the Walters' home, which was designed with such recitals in mind.

Christopher Duigan is well-qualified to run such a project. In 1990 he received his Bachelor of Music degree *cum laude* from the University of Natal, and in 1995 he completed a Masters degree at the University of Cape Town. Since then he has won numerous scholarships and awards, both in South Africa and abroad. One of these enabled him to study at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester in 1995/96, where he

was awarded the Professional Performers' degree and was placed first in the RNCM Recital Prize for pianists. Other prestigious awards include that for the best South African pianist in UNISA's International Piano Competition.

When he is not being invited to play with orchestras all over the country or to give recitals in places such as London, Edinburgh, Dedham and the Thames Valley, he has devoted his talents to resuscitating live classical music in Pietermaritzburg. Apart from his piano recitals, he has accompanied many top artists who have come to perform in the city, such as Joanne Rozario (the clarinet and saxophone player), the soprano Angela



The Kerimov Trio – Elena and Boris Kerimov with Christopher Duigan

Gilbert, or together with Elena and Boris Kerimov in the Kerimov Trio. He has reached out to both young school audiences and to older folk who have found his presentations interesting and inspiring.

Duigan continues to host overseas artists such as the German pianist Florian Uhlig and the Italian harpist Susanna Mildonian, and, during his recent visit to Scotland, where he was invited to give a number of piano recitals at the Edinburgh Festival, he made contact with a number of performers who are keen to visit KwaZulu-Natal.

Music Revival is not just a project: it is a manifestation of the love and fervour which Duigan has for his subject and his desire to share this with others by bringing classical music to the people of the province. He recently received a well-deserved nomination for a Daily News/Ingababa award for this work, and he deserves the highest praise for what he has done for music-lovers in Pietermaritzburg.

PESSA WEINBERG

CARDINAL WILFRED FOX NAPIER

The Catholic diocese of Natal was established in 1850 and two years later Bishop Jean Francois Allard and his party arrived from France to begin their work. In the next 149 years there have been only five Catholic bishops, a testimony to the healthy conditions enjoyed in Natal. Three of these bishops came from France – Allard, Jolivet, Delalle –

and two, Hurley and Napier, were South African born. Hurley became the first archbishop in 1951 when the Catholic hierarchy was created and now Napier, his successor as archbishop of Durban, is South Africa's second cardinal. In the former Portuguese colonies of Mozambique and Angola there have been cardinals for a long time but South Africa's only cardinal prior to this was Owen, Cardinal McCann of Cape Town, who received the hat in 1965; he died in 1994.

Wilfred Fox Napier was born on 8 March 1941 in Matatiele, East Griqualand in the Catholic diocese of Kokstad. He is one of seven children: five boys and two girls. He was educated at the Holy Cross Convent in Matatiele and then at Little Flower High School in Ixopo, matriculating in 1960. He then joined the Franciscan Order, which had been serving the diocese of Kokstad since 1939, and was sent to Ireland to be trained; he entered the Franciscan Novitiate at Killarney.

After completing his novitiate he studied at the University of Galway, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in English and Latin. After this he continued his studies in Philosophy and Theology at the Catholic University at Louvain in Belgium, graduating with a master's degree. He was ordained to the priesthood in Kokstad on July 25, 1970, initially serving the parishes of Lusikisiki and Tabankulu. Eight years later he was appointed apostolic administrator of the diocese of Kokstad and three years later, in 1981, he was ordained Bishop of Kokstad, succeeding Bishop John Evangelist McBride OFM. In 1992 he was appointed to succeed Archbishop Denis Hurley in the post of Archbishop of Durban and also, from 1994, as Administrator of the diocese of Umzimkulu.

Cardinal Napier has had considerable administrative experience. From 1987 to 1994, and again from 2000, he served as president of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference. He has served for some years on the Council of the secretariate of the Synod of Bishops which meets in Rome, and was involved in the preparation of the Synod of Africa in 1994. Since 1998 he has served as consultor for the Sacred Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. He speaks several languages fluently, including French, Xhosa and now Zulu. He is currently studying Italian.

Pope John Paul II held the largest consistory on record on 21 February 2001, when 44 new cardinals were created. They came from twenty-seven countries and five continents, kneeling individually before the pontiff to receive their red skull caps, birettas and gold rings, as well as words of encouragement and a warm embrace. The College of Cardinals now has a membership of 184; of these 135 are below the age of 80 years and are eligible to vote in the papal conclave when the next pope is elected.

Cardinals are expected "to shine in wisdom and holiness" as they guide the Church in all parts of the world. Each cardinal was required to make a profession of faith and an oath of fidelity and obedience to the Pope.

Usually each cardinal is assigned the honorary care of a church in Rome, although those from the Eastern Church declined this; Napier's titular church is St Francis of Assisi on the outskirts of Rome on the road to Ostia. He officially took possession of it on 20 May 2001.

South Africa has a comparatively small number of Catholics, estimated at about 10% of the population, and feels honoured to have its own cardinal and the closer relationship with the Vatican that this brings. We wish him well *ad multos annos*.

JOY BRAIN

CEMETERY TOURS

As part of Heritage Week 2001, the Commercial Road Cemetery Action Group organised a tour of the cemetery on the afternoon of Sunday 23 September. Shelagh Spencer dealt with the Anglican, Methodist and Catholic sections, Louis Eksteen with the Dutch Reformed and Presbyterian sections, and Gillian Tatham, Jos von Fintel and Brian Spencer assisted those who wanted to locate specific graves. Approximately 50 people attended.

Eksteen pointed out, among others, the memorials of Hendrik van den Berg, who died in 1839 and was the first person to be buried in the cemetery, on the old Grey's Hospital side. Erasmus Smit, who looked after the religious needs of the Voortrekkers, and his fiery wife Susanna, the first proponent of women's rights in the town; the Boshoff family, including that of J. N. Boshoff, second President of the Free State and Philip Ferreira, third Mayor of the city.

Spencer covered a cross-section of the community in singling out people like Martin West, first Governor of Natal; Peter Davis, long-time proprietor of the *Natal Witness*; Alfred Kershaw, twice Mayor of Maritzburg, and after whom Kershaw Park is named; Major James Grantham, who in the 1860s made a detailed survey of Natal and produced a topographical map of the area.

Eksteen and Spencer, both experts in their fields, were encouraged by the new contacts they were able to make, who, in some instances, have been able to produce valuable previously unknown information.

The tour on 23 September was not the first to be organised, but certainly the most successful. This was undoubtedly due to the article by Nalini Naidoo that had appeared in the *Natal Witness* some days before, in which it was shown that a walk through the cemetery with a knowledgeable guide would be an interesting experience.

BRIAN SPENCER

CHANGING GUARD AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Natal's Government House is reckoned to have grown from one of the oldest buildings in Pietermaritzburg. (See Brann and Haswell, 'The Oldest Houses in Pietermaritzburg', *Natalia* 13.) In 1849 Lt Governor Benjamin Pine purchased the wattle-and-daub cottage on Erf 1 Longmarket Street from Surveyor General Dr William Stanger, and subsequently sold it to the government to become the official residence of his successors. Rebuilt in dressed shale and enlarged several times (with the addition of a red-brick wing fronting Longmarket Street to accommodate the Duke and Duchess of York when they visited in 1901), the house remained such until the formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910, when the colonial administration withdrew.

Vacated by the governors and not wanted by the first Administrator of the new province, the building was then altered and further enlarged to serve the needs of Natal's original teacher training college. The Natal Government Teachers' Training College (later more simply the Natal Training College – NTC or 'TC' to generations of student teachers) had been founded in 1908 and moved to Government House in 1911. For roughly half of the ensuing century it was the only college for white teachers in the province, and, because of links between the college and the University of Natal in Scottsville, every teacher to qualify in Natal received at least part of his or her professional training on the Government House campus.

By mid-century, the Natal Education Department had established a second college (later to become an Afrikaans-medium institution) in Durban, and in the 1960s was planning further expansion. So strong was NTC's attachment to Government House at this juncture that the college resisted relocation to a larger, purpose-built campus, and in due course the department opened instead Edgewood College in Pinetown.

When in 1977 it was decided to centralise all English-medium courses for senior primary and junior secondary teachers at Edgewood, many thought that TC was doomed to closure, but this did not happen. Catering only for the junior primary and pre-primary phases, NTC flourished as a specialist college, pioneering the competence-based approach which later became the cornerstone of the national teacher education curriculum.

Meanwhile, the education department had embarked on another new venture, establishing a distance college for serving teachers on the premises of the former Harward school. In 1987, this College of Education for Further Training (CEFT) and NTC were amalgamated on the Government House campus to form the Natal College of Education. Almost immediately, and without exploring the possibilities of the (now widely adopted) 'mixed mode' combination of full-time residential courses with resource-based distance tuition, the department decided to close the pre-service component of the college. NCE thus became a distance college only, and again complete closure seemed imminent as the national government started a new round of college rationalisation.

In campaigning to keep the pre-service section open, NCE had pointed to the advantages of opening its specialist courses to teachers of all races. Even though apartheid was clearly a failed ideology and there was a huge demand for college places amongst aspiring black teachers (which demand subsequently manifested itself in two politically-inspired invasions of the campus by would-be students) the government of the day had chosen to close a thriving and forward-looking institution rather than to open a valuable resource to people who were not white.

Exploiting a precedent set by CEFT, however, NCE was able to promote an inter-departmental agreement whereby it could enrol teachers in the employ of the then KwaZulu education department in its distance programmes. Within a very few years the initial quota of 100 selected students fell into abeyance, and, even before the democratisation of the state in 1994, the college was effectively open to all, with some 5 000 predominantly black students.

The reduction of apartheid's many education structures into one national and one provincial education department brought a new impetus to rationalise the superabundant colleges in the country. KwaZulu-Natal alone had some 15 colleges, with three offering distance education – NCE, the former KwaZulu government's Umlazi College for Further Training, and the distance component of Springfield College of Education, founded to cater for the Indian community. Once again, irrationality governed the rationalisation process. Despite the merits of a suggestion that NCE could be combined with Indumiso College and linked to the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg to create in the Midlands a mixed-mode institution offering a full range of qualifications, it was decided to amalgamate the three distance education providers into a single college with two campuses – one in Durban and one in Pietermaritzburg.

Even before the ambitiously-named 'South African College for Open Learning' was officially constituted, the national government had floated the idea of incorporating all colleges into the universities and technikons, and of having only one national provider

of distance education. Since teacher education, once a provincial concern, had under the new constitution become a national competence, the adoption of this policy meant an early end for SACOL as a separate institution. In February 2001 the college was duly absorbed into the University of South Africa.

For the moment, UNISA has retained the 'SACOL' name for its KwaZulu-Natal subsidiary, but this will doubtless fall away as the students who first registered with the college move on. Similarly, the question of whether the Government House campus will continue to be used as a centre for teacher education will presumably be negotiated between the university and the KZN Department of Education and Culture, and it has to be guessed that the Pretoria-based UNISA will see little point in maintaining a full college establishment in Pietermaritzburg.

It is probably valid to trace a direct line of succession (albeit an increasingly diluted one) from the Natal Government Teachers' Training College of 1908 through NCE to SACOL, but the absorption of the college into an existing university surely puts an end to that line. The increasing independence that the college had grown to enjoy as a semi-autonomous institution is now wholly surrendered.

The building that was the governor's residence of the nineteenth century and became the college campus of the twentieth, looks set to find new occupants and a new function in the twenty-first.

MORAY COMRIE

MSUNDUZI HERITAGE FORUM FORMED

On 6 August 2001, the Msunduzi Heritage Forum was formed with the constitution being ratified by those in attendance. This was the culmination of months of deliberations involving many organisations concerned with the preservation and promotion of heritage in Pietermaritzburg.

It all began a year before as a collaborative effort to coordinate and jointly promote all Heritage Day activities arranged by the various bodies. The activities in the week surrounding Heritage Day were promoted in a brochure and through the media. That success led to discussions towards forming an organisation which – in the words of the preamble to the constitution – 'would seek to achieve a greater understanding and unity of purpose in the conservation and celebration of a common, yet diverse, South African heritage through the sharing of experiences and resources and the planning, implementing and promoting of relevant programmes and activities'. Towards this aim, the initial group, consisting mainly of museums and archives, contacted as many organisations concerned with heritage and the promotion of culture as possible. Not all those contacted committed themselves to the constitutional process but the committee would like to hear from any body conforming to the aims laid down by the Forum.

An *ad hoc* committee had been elected to run the Forum until the Annual General Meeting due to be held in July 2002. Pieter Nel of the Pietermaritzburg Archives Repository is the elected chairman of the Forum and his address (Private Bag X9012, Pietermaritzburg, 3200) was chosen as the domicillium. Ros Devereux acts as secretary and Jos von Fintel as treasurer. They are supported by committee members Paul Thompson and Louis Eksteen.

ROS DEVEREUX

HERITAGE SOCIETIES

Heritage societies are by no means new phenomena, but they seem to be enjoying a fresh surge of interest and respect. The Pietermaritzburg Heritage Society is one such organization. As its name suggests, most of its activities centre on Pietermaritzburg as it explores the architectural and cultural heritage of the city, but its excursions also go further afield. Thus, for example, outings to Greytown, Byrne and Otto's Bluff are planned for the winter and spring of 2002. The latter has a direct link to this journal, for Stephen Coan will be talking about the subject of his article in *Natalia 30* – the filming of *King Solomon's Mines*. Providing a second connection, Dr Bill Bizley will be presenting an illustrated talk on Pietermaritzburg's tramway era later in the year, and no doubt will touch on the accident which is the subject of his note in the present issue.

Relating the heritage of the city to contemporary affairs, the society has invited Colin Gardner, Speaker of the Msundusi Council, to address its members on the subject of the naming and renaming of streets in the Pietermaritzburg. With the name of the city itself being the subject of much current discussion, this talk is likely to excite lively discussion.

The Pietermaritzburg Heritage Society has links to other similar organizations, and *Natalia* would be happy to draw these to the attention of its readers. The Heritage Society itself can be contacted at P.O. Box 100358, Scottsville 3209.

MORAY COMRIE

THE IMPERIAL CONNECTION

The Bonaparte connection with KwaZulu-Natal has, over the past six years, been imaginatively developed through the initiative and drive of Ms Glenn Flanagan of the French Department at the Technikon Natal.

In June of each year a 'French presence' symposium has been held, followed by a ceremony at Uqwekwe in Zululand, where the Prince Imperial was killed on 1 June 1879 during the Anglo-Zulu War.

In 2001, for the first time, a Requiem Mass was held in the original Catholic chapel in Loop Street, Pietermaritzburg, where the Prince's body had lain in state while en route to Durban, and thence to Chislehurst in Surrey where his widowed mother was then living.

The Mass was celebrated in Latin by Father John Patterson OMI, of St Mary's parish. Musical accompaniment was provided in the form of works by Giovanni Francesco, William Byrd, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Gionanni da Palestrina and Anton Bruckner, beautifully rendered by the University Madrigal Singers under the direction of Michael Lambert.

The site where the catafalque had stood 122 years ago was covered with a pall, on which was a plaque depicting the face of the Prince, Fleur de Lis, and tall candlesticks at each corner.

It is hoped that a Requiem Mass will become a regular feature of the annual Prince Imperial commemorations in Pietermaritzburg. A link is also being forged with the Imperial Chapel in Biarritz, where such Masses are celebrated annually on the dates of the deaths of the Prince and his parents.

SHELAGH SPENCER