

HASTINGS PIER CHARITY

HASTINGS
PIER

Early Pier Concerts



Inside the original Pier pavilion 1872-1917, (HPC014.028)



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



www.hastingspier.org.uk

THE PIER CONCERTS

Hastings & St Leonards Observer, August 22 1891

Notwithstanding the many counter attractions in the town, the Pier concerts have continued to draw large audiences, both afternoon and evening. The vocalists for the past week have been Mr. Rechab Tandy and Miss Florence Croft, who made their first appearance in Hastings. Mr. Tandy is the possessor of a powerful tenor voice, and, in addition, he sings with great feeling. Miss Croft has a sweet voice, but it is not powerful enough for the size of the pavilion. On Monday afternoon, in the presence of about 600 people, the programme opened with the well-known march, "Mountain Gnomes" (Eilenberg), which was beautifully rendered. Auber's splendid overture, "Le Domino Noire," was another effective piece of orchestration. Mr. Tandy sang "Mona" (S. Adams), for which he was much applauded. Thomas's "Mignon" was a fine selection, but the orchestra were not well together. Miss Florence Croft sang "The Prima Donna" (Roeckel). This is a poor composition, and was not well received. The concluding item was a short but beautiful overture by Hermann, "Couronne d'Or," a piece thoroughly characteristic of the composer.

In the evening Suppe's fine overture, "Poet and Peasant," was played, the 'cello obligato by Ilona. Van da Velde being capital. Mr. Rechab Tandy gained an encore for his rendering of the song, "The Star of Bethlehem" (S. A. Davis), and later on Miss Florence Croft received a similar compliment for the song, "Where's Hugo?" (Maizials). Rossini's overture, "William Tell," was grandly played. Mr. J. F. Barlow's flute solo, "Homage a Venise" (Zerschak), was excellently rendered.

About 500 persons were present on Tuesday afternoon, but we are again sorry to have to refer to the baby-crying nuisance, through which a good concert was, in a great measure, spoiled. The officials seem to take no notice of the disturbances thus created, and the consequence is that a great annoyance is continued which could be easily avoided if those in charge of the children were requested by the officials to take them out of the Pavilion. In fact, during a concert young children ought to be excluded, as they are at the Theatre. The nuisance was continued in the evening, there being children in arms, even in the shilling seats, annoying all around them.

The French horn solo, "There is a green hill" (Gounod), by Signor Rabottini, who plays this difficult, though beautiful, instrument so marvellously well, was deservedly encored. The pianoforte solo by Mr. Charles J. Corti, "Polonaise In A major" (Chopin), was grandly played, and redemanded. Balfe's ever-popular selection from "The Bohemian Girl" was splendidly performed by the orchestra. The pavilion was crammed with an appreciative audience.



An Edwardian ball in Hastings Pier pavilion (HPC058.022)

On Wednesday evening, Dr. Abram's orchestra scored another big success in Haydn's celebrated "Farewell Symphony," which was given by special desire, although the effect was spoiled by the light being turned off too soon.

Notwithstanding the very wet weather on Thursday afternoon, there were about 500 persons present. "The Strolling Player" was fairly well sung by Miss Florence Croft, but it is a pity that this lady does not sing out more, as she appears to have a sweet voice. "Dearest of all" (Stanley Larcomb.) was very well sung by Mr. Rechab Tandy, and Miss Florence Croft was encored for her rendering of the popular "Caller Herrin" (Auld Scotch). The intermezzo, "Forget-me-not" by the orchestra was most rapturously received. The weather continued wretchedly wet in the evening, and there was only a small audience, but what was lacking in numbers was made up in appreciation. "The Mexican Serenade", for stringed instruments only (pizzicato) (Langey), was splendidly played,

and most enthusiastically encored. Miss Florence Croft and Mr. Rechab Tandy were encored for their singing of the charming duet, "Alice, where art thou?" Notwithstanding the very showery and general inclement weather, there were over 1,100 persons present at the grand classical concert yesterday (Friday) afternoon, and certainly they were amply repaid for any inconvenience they might have suffered by the state of the elements.

The opening overture, "Fingal's Cave" (Mendelssohn) was grandly played, without a hitch in any part. A solo for the violoncello, "Air" (Bach), was a most lovely piece of music, beautifully played by Mons..Van de Velde. Mr. Rechab Tandy sang the recitative, "And God created man." And the air, "In native worth," from "The Creation" (Haydn), and was deservedly recalled-. Gounod's "There is a Green Hill Far Away" was well sung by Miss Florence Croft, and encored. Herr Max Heymann's violin solo "Fantaisie militaire" (Leonard), was[missing]

Hastings & St Leonards Observer, Saturday 16 January 1915

"On Wednesday evening another popular concert was given. Mr. Ernest J Roberts conducting. All the items were of a popular character. A member of the 25th London Territorials, stationed at Bexhill, Cyclist Bob Butler, a well-known London comedian, sang 'Sister Susie Sewing Shirts for Soldiers' and "Water Scenes", both of which were vociferously encored. A charming mezz-soprano, Miss Katie Lidbetter, sang "Your King and Country Want You" and "The Women Who Stay At Home", being encored for both.

Please note that this information is provided free of charge and whilst Hastings Pier Charity makes every effort to keep the information on the website accurate, the majority of the information comes from the general public and volunteers. We therefore disclaim any warranty or representation, express or implied about its accuracy, completeness or appropriateness for a particular purpose. If there are any errors, please contact Hastings Pier by email info@hpcharity.co.uk

www.hastingspier.org.uk