

Frederick Delius: the man and his music

About the composer

2012 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of the composer Frederick Delius. Born in Bradford on 29th January 1862, he was brought up and educated as if he were destined to enter his father's wool business. However, his artistic inclinations and longing for independence saw him first farming oranges in Florida, then briefly teaching music at a finishing school in Virginia, before enrolling at the Music Conservatorium in

*The last great
apostle in our
time of romance,
emotion and
beauty in music*

**Sir Thomas
Beecham**

Leipzig. His subsequent move to Paris in 1888 brought him into contact with the most vigorous and cosmopolitan artistic environment of the day. There he

met his future wife, the artist Jelka Rosen, and in 1897 he moved with her to Grez-sur-Loing, near Fontainebleau, where he spent the rest of his life and composed many of his finest works. Around 1922 his health began to deteriorate and when, a few years later, he became unable to see or to hold a pen he accepted the help of a young musician, Eric Fenby, in setting down his musical ideas. That extraordinary collaboration has entered musical legend. Delius died in 1934.

His considerable output comprised six operas, four concertos, works for solo singers and orchestra, for soloists, chorus and orchestra (including *A Mass of Life* to words by Nietzsche), for chorus and orchestra, orchestral pieces, chamber music, part songs and over 60 solo songs. First recognised in Germany, Delius came to the notice of the English public mainly through the championship of Sir Thomas Beecham.



the **Delius** society

Delius
150th anniversary
1862–1934

2012

Special anniversary celebrations will include several Festivals, a Study Weekend, a Composition Prize, many new recordings and a very large number of performances of works by Delius. For full details, please visit the Delius Society/Delius Trust website at www.delius.org.uk

I admire your work intensely and salute the genius displayed in it

Sir Edward Elgar

The Delius Society

Founded in the centenary year of 1962, the Society has as its main aim the bringing together of those interested in Frederick Delius and his music. Whilst the membership list includes leading

I was pleasantly surprised, indeed stimulated, by your manuscripts and I detect in them signs of a most distinguished compositional talent in the grand style, which aspires to the highest goal

Edvard Grieg

Delius scholars and performers, the majority of members are not professional or even practising musicians but join purely because of their curiosity about, or love for, the unique music of Delius.

The Society is independent from, but works closely with, the Delius Trust, the expertise of whose Trustees and Advisors is a great asset. Our first President was Dr. Eric Fenby, Delius's amanuensis. Felix Aprahamian, the distinguished music critic, succeeded him from 1997 until 2005. Lionel Carley, Archivist to the Delius Trust and the author of a number of books on the composer, is our current President.

What does membership include?

Membership brings you the twice-yearly Delius Society Journal (combining substantial articles on the latest research into the music and life of Delius with more informal essays, correspondence, international news and full details of

forthcoming events, including concerts, exhibitions, meetings, record and book releases and reviews), two newsletters per year, access to all meetings and activities (held regularly in London and the Midlands) and opportunities for contact and correspondence with fellow members and Delius authorities. There are also advantageous reciprocal membership rates with other single-composer Societies.

Music is an outburst of the soul

Frederick Delius

The annual subscription rates are as follows: £28 (UK and Europe); \$55 (US and Canada); £32 (Far East/Australia/South Africa) and £5 (UK student).

To find out more about the Society, please visit the Delius Society/Delius Trust website at www.delius.org.uk or contact

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