

PROGRAMME NOTES

H.M. THE KING OF THAILAND SUITE I

Candlelight Blues, (Saeng Tian), arr. by William Kanengiser

Love Light in My Heart, (Kaew Ta Kwan Jai), arr. by Frederic Hand

Oh I Say, arr. by Andrew York

A Love Story, (Pirom Ruk), arr. by Artem Vassilev

Dream Island, (Koh Nai Fun), arr. Artem Vassilev

Love in Spring, (Lom Naw), arr. by Frederic Hand

Love at Sundown, (Yarm Yen), arr. by Andrew York

Falling Rain, (Sai Fon), arr. by Frederic Hand

Never Mind the Hungry Men's Blues, (Duang Jai Kup Kwam Ruk), arr. by Andrew York

Blue Day, (Artit Ub Saeng), arr. by Frederic Hand

H.M. KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ

H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand was born in Cambridge Massachusetts, The United States of America, on Monday 5th December 1927, being the third and youngest child of Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Mahidol of Songkhla, who gave Him the auspicious name of "*Bhumibol Adulyadej*". It was the name, "*Bhumibol*" (Strength "Bhumibol" (Strength Strength of the Land), that was to define His role as the future King of Thailand, ninth Monarch of the Chakri Dynasty, which had been established with the founding of Bangkok in 1782.

From an early age, His Majesty's first love has been music. He was coaxing sounds from a saxophone even before He had reached His teens. His love of jazz - specially the blues - was nurtured from an early age, and developed to such a level of proficiency that, on a visit to New York in 1960, He was invited to sit in with jazz great, clarinettist Benny Goodman. That joyous occasion led to jam sessions with other jazz legends, many of whom visited the Kingdom in order to play with His Majesty. Not content with a single instrument, He also achieved admirable skill in playing the clarinet, trumpet, and guitar. A popular leisure activity for Him was a trip into the countryside. There are numerous photos of His Majesty taking a leisurely ride in a canal boat, playing His trumpet accompanied by members of His band.

From playing tunes, it was a natural progression to composing music, experimenting with phrases on the piano as He wrote. One photo depicts Him deep in concentration, writing a score while a cat perches above Him on the piano lid. He is the composer of 48 songs, His signature cadences immediately definable. One of His best-known works, "*Blue Day*", was adopted by Mike Todd in 1950 for "*Peepshow*", perhaps the only time a Monarch's composition has been showcased in a hit Broadway musical. He is also the only Thai composer listed in the latest edition of the prestigious Encyclopaedia of Jazz and was the first Thai composer inducted into Die Akademie für Musi für Musik und Darstellende Kunst (The Institute of Music and Arts) of Vienna.

Suite I is a set of ten pieces, composed by H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej and some of the lyrics were written either in Thai or English by H.R.H. Prince Chakrabandh Pensiri and a number of collaborators. The concert-programme for the evening commences with *Candlelight Blues*, (Saeng Tian), which was the first song composed by His Majesty in April 1946, before His accession to the Throne. The honour of composing the Thai lyrics was granted to H.R.H. Prince Chakrabandh Pensiri. But as His Majesty wished to improve the melody, He did not release the composition at that time. Nonetheless, this piece was premiered by the Euah Sunthornsanan's Band in 1947. The English version was later written by Associate Professor Sodsai Pantoomkomol in 1953. It was arranged for guitar by William Kanengiser, a classical guitarist, whose repertoire ranges from Mozart, Handel and Bartok to new music from Eastern Europe and the Caribbean. The concert continues with *Love Light in My Heart*, (Kaew Ta Kwan Jai), which together with *Blue Day* (Artit Ub Saeng), were composed by His Majesty in 1949 while visiting Davos in the

Swiss Alps. The lyrics in Thai and English were both written by H.R.H. Prince Chakrabandh Pensiri. These pieces were arranged for guitar by Frederic Hand, an extremely fast guitar player and also a composer for film scores. Then we have *Oh I Say*, composed in 1955 with the English lyrics by M.R. Seni Pramoj. The piece was given Royal permission to be played at the American Alumni Association's function held on Saturday 5th February 1955. It was arranged for guitar by Andrew York, an innovator in classical guitar and composer. This special concert continues with *A Love Story*, (Pirom Ruk), specially composed and personally arranged by His Majesty for the Manohra Ballet, premiered by the Euah Sunthornsanan Band in 1959. The rehearsal of the ballet was supervised by His Majesty. H.R.H. Prince Chakrabandh Pensiri wrote the English lyrics and Rear Admiral Preecha Disyanan is the author of the Thai verses. It was arranged for the guitar by Artem Vassilev, a gifted young Russian electro-acoustic composer, who has received commissions from the Royal Academy of Music and has orchestrated music for films.

The programme follows with *Dream Island*, (Koh Nai Fun). The music and English lyrics were composed and written by His Majesty, whereas Thanphuying Maniratana Bunnag and M.L. Praphan Snidvongs collaborated with the Thai verses. It was also arranged for guitar by Artem Vassilev, currently teaching in the Sound Engineering Department at the Gnessin School, who gave an up to date touch to the piece written in 1965. The concert continues with *Love in Spring*, (Lom Naw), a romantic piece composed by His Majesty in 1954. This piece was awarded to the Old England Students Association. It was played on Saturday 6th February 1954 and became their hallmark anthem. Then, we will listen to *Love Story at Sundown*, (Yarm Yen), a foxtrot tempo, composed in 1946 before His Majesty was crowned. The Thai lyrics were written by H.R.H. Prince Chakrabandh Pensiri and the English version by Professor Thanphuying Nopakhun Thongyai Na Ayudhya. It was the first of His Majesty's pieces to be performed in public at a radio station through the Public Relations Department. This piece was included in the Euah Sunthornsanan Band's repertoire and was played on 4th May 1946. It was arranged for guitar by Andrew York, a classical guitar, composer and virtuoso at both jazz and classical music, who, as a member of the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, won a Grammy Award.

The concert continues with *Falling Rain*, (Sai Fon), a waltz and the third piece composed by His Majesty in May 1946. The Thai lyrics were written by H.R.H. Prince Chakrabandh Pensiri who also wrote the English version with Professor Thanphuying Nopakhun Thongyai Na Ayudhya. It was arranged for guitar by Frederic Hand, an appointed guitarist and lutenist with the Metropolitan Opera since 1986. It is followed by *Never Mind the Hungry Men's Blues*, (Duang Jai Kup Kwam Ruk), with a swing rhythm. His Majesty had in mind a previous piece, H.M. Blues, when composing this song, because the situation was almost the same. It was His Majesty's birthday party held on Saturday 6th December 1947 and having had dinner, His Majesty and His band were ready to play again through the night. H.R.H. Prince Chakrabandh Pensiri is the author of both the English and Thai lyrics. Suite I comes to an end with *Blue Day*, (Artit Ub Saeng), composed on Wednesday 3rd February 1949 when His Majesty was on holiday in the Swiss Alps. H.R.H. Prince Chakrabandh Pensiri wrote both the English and Thai versions.

INTERVAL (20mins)

UN SUEÑO EN LA FLORESTA, *Tremolo*
AGUSTIN BARRIOS, MANGORE (1885-1944)

He was born in San Juan Bautista, Paraguay and at the age of thirteen studied at the Colegio

Nacional Asuncion; and very soon was given concerts. *Un Sueno en la Floresta*, is a tremolo, one of the most delicate styles, which requires a total technical control of the guitar's harmonic capabilities. Barrios worked out his tremolos to perfection, always looking to give a major variety introducing pauses when playing them.

GUITAR SONATA IN D MINOR OPUS 61

Allegro – Andante – Allegro Vivo

JOAQUIN TURINA (1882-1949)

Spanish composer who studied in Paris absorbing elements along the French lines; his works for the guitar used folk-music elements. He wrote his *Guitar Sonata in D Minor Opus 61* in 1932 and was dedicated to Andres Segovia. The first movement have two different themes, one strong and loud, and the other with a poetic form, in a typical Spanish style and the last was composed with a strong flamenco guitar character.

H.M. THE KING OF THAILAND SUITE II

H.M. Blues, (Chata Cheewit), arr. by William Kanengiser

Near Dawn, (Klai Roong), arr. by William Kanengiser

No Moon, (Rai Jun : Rai Duan), arr. by Andrew York

Magic Beams, (Saeng Duan), arr. by William Kanengiser

H.M. KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ

Ekachai will begin the second part of the concert by playing *H.M. Blues* (Chata Cheewit), composed by His Majesty following His coronation. The English verses were written by H.R.H. Prince Chakrabandh Pensiri. The letters H.M. does not stand for His Majesty but for "Hungry Men". His Majesty told the story about how He and the band members, in playing at private dinner functions He hosted for Thai expatriates in Switzerland, often got so carried away with the playing that they did not get to sit down for their dinner until halfway through the night, after others had already finished theirs. That's how the title "Hungry Men's Blues" came to be. Nevertheless, the Thai lyrics for the song, written by Professor Dr. Prasert Na Nagara, picked a theme totally different from that of the English version because the academic did not have the English lyrics with him at the time of composition. The Thai version, whose title means "Fate", spoke of the wandering of a lonely bird under the unlucky stars, waiting for the new dawn to break through. Still, the two versions had philosophical endings, in keeping with His Majesty's intention. It was arranged for guitar by William Kanengiser, a guitarist keen to play modern masterpieces. Next is *Near Dawn*, (Klai Roong), a piece composed in 1946. The Thai lyrics were written by Professor Dr. Prasert Na Nagara with a contribution by H.R.H. Prince Chakrabandh Pensiri, whereas the English lyrics by Professor Thanphuying Nopakhun Thongyai Na Ayudhya. Then we will listen to *No Moon* (Rai Jun and Rai Duan) composed by His Majesty with the English lyrics in 1965. There are two versions of the Thai lyrics: one by Arjin Panjaphan (Rai Jun), and the other (Rai Duan) by Thanphuying Maniratana Bunnag and ML Praphan Snidvongs. It was arranged for guitar by Andrew York, who studied with Joe Diorio and Lenny Breau, two exceptional jazz players. Suite II ends with *Magic Beams*, (Saeng Duan), a graceful piece composed by His Majesty in 1958, with both the English and Thai lyrics by H.R.H. Prince Chakrabandh Pensiri. It was arranged for guitar by William Kanengiser, who has a repertoire of classical, as well as, modern music.